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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

SEPTEMBER 15th, 1977, ISSUE No. 35

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 35 SEPTEMBER 15th, 1977

FEATURES–

Fish Talk:
NORTHERN PUFFER ..... Dr. W. A. Muller 8
SurfSide:
BAIT AT LIDO BEACH ..... David Curti 9
Sinker Bouncing:
EARLY FALL FLOUNDER ..... Matt Ahern 10
THE FISHERMAN "IG" TEST ..... Fred Guardineer 11
Inshore Fishing:
DOORMAT FLUKING ..... Scott Simons 12
TROLLING FOR STRIPERS ..... Ron Onorato 14
NORTH SHORE DOCKS ..... Don Avondolio 16
THE SLUICEWAY ..... Tim Coleman 18

DEPARTMENTS–

Editor's Head 4
Pass It On 5
New Books 5
Club News 6
Litter Box Contest 6
Chum Lines 7
Subscription Blank 20
Fishing Reports 21
Classified Ads 44
Fisherman Publications 46
Tide Tables 47
Solunar Tables 47

COMING NEXT WEEK:

Mounting Shark Jaws

About the Cover–

There are many docks and piers located in the north shore harbors where anglers may catch big bluefish in the fall, such as this one located in Cold Spring Harbor. See the article *"Fall Chippers at North Shore Harbor Docks"* by Don Avondolio on page 16 of this issue.

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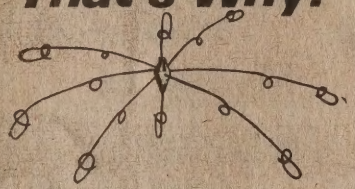

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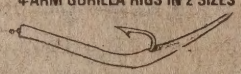

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From the Editor's Head

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Whatever Happened to Lobster Chumming?

Now we never witnessed any of this, mind you, but the rumors are common enough and consistent enough to make one believe that they are true.

Supposedly, in a time long ago, wealthy surf fishermen chummed with lobster. They didn't need to be wealthy in order to afford the lobster. No, those crustaceans were common everywhere. Financial security was required for the technique's application. Take Montauk Point, for example. Casting platforms were constructed under the light and these wooden catwalks would permit an angler to fish the high-surf in relative comfort and safety.

Now, the would-be surf platform fishermen would dispatch servants to the thundering surf under the famed lighthouse. They brought with them plenty of lobster chum. The servants would dole out the delicacy into the briny during most of a night tide, and by morning's first light, the stripers would be cavorting on the down-tide side of the platform. The servants were not supposed to fish, but I wonder if now and then a shelled-claw didn't slip back in the current with a hook in it?

The dawn would bring the courageous hunter to the beach—er—casting platform, where they would proceed to throw a variety of crude artificials to the bass. The bass, meanwhile, were so charged up that they greedily gobbled up anything that was offered—at the surface or below.

Whatever happened to lobster chumming? When we think about all the hours spent pushing sand and unintentionally heating water-soaked woolen undergarments, only to come home without a fish and then to drive to the fish store to buy a lobster at three dollars-plus a pound! Well!

I know that all of this is distressing, but it goes a long way towards demonstrating the principle of relativity! Everything is relative! Today, a lobster is a jewel of the sea to be purchased on rare occasions, and savored totally.

Switches in approaches and standards are common enough! It is especially common when it comes to fishing techniques. Although the example above is outlandish and we know that the price and availability of lobster make its use as chum ridiculous, many techniques come and go without logical basis.

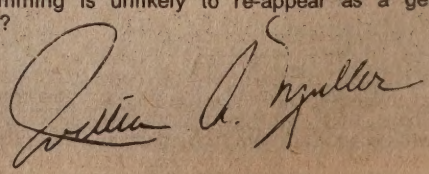
It's not so much that their "going" is illogical, but why they do not reappear may be considered odd. Consider the eel skin plug. Ten to fifteen years ago, eel skin plugs were **numero uno** for big bass in the western sound. Then big bunker appeared on the scene,-and everyone forgot eel skins in favor of the oily frightened baitfish. Everyone except a few sharpies who remembered and kept the eel skin plug as a prominent part of their arsenal. Incidentally, the same thing happened prior to ten-fifteen years ago, too. That is, when the big bunker returned, it took a while before everybody remembered live lining to be a viable angling technique! Everything is relative!

Another example: clam chumming in the south shore inlets was a popular summertime technique for big bass. The approach that was developed over many years by a relative handful of fishermen became so specialized that lengths of wire line and lead core line, together with other complicated strategies, were part of the process. Somehow, this approach fell out of favor after the early 1970s, but has begun a comeback this year. Why?

I don't know and I doubt that the fishermen involved do either. But there is a common ingredient in all this, and it involves relative personalities. Let's face it—most modern-day anglers sit or sleep comfortably, waiting for a phone call or an article in a local fishing column before heading down to the sea. Blame this laziness on modern rapid communications. But there are still a few fishermen who sit down and think through their experiences and observations. For certain, most of the time the results fall far short of expectations, but once in a while they are rewarded for "having reasoned it out."

Relative personalities? Sure! Some guys get a kick out of the pursuit—that is their victory; while others get a kick only by catching. Remember, if it weren't for the "plugger" (no pun intended), the fishing news would be empty and boring.

Whatever happened to lobster chumming? It's gone, but unlike the techniques of clam chumming, live lining, eel skin plugs, and reverse atoms (thanks for the reminder, Frank), lobster chumming is unlikely to re-appear as a genuine approach—but then, who knows?



Pass It On...

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE CLOSES BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY

William G. Gordon, Regional Director of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, has announced the closure dates for the harvesting of Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing over 300 pounds, with gear other than purse seines at 2400 hours local time on September 5, in the regulatory area off New England and at 2400 hours local time, on September 9 in the regulatory area off the Mid-Atlantic.

As in 1976, the overall quota of 2000 fish was divided between two fishing areas separated by a line drawn from a point on the southern coast of Massachusetts, extending through Gay Head Light into the Atlantic Ocean. Of the 2000 fish quota, 1750 were allotted to the area north and east of this line; 150 were allotted to the area west of the line, and 100 were reserved for a special industry/government cooperative tagging program designed to facilitate an aerial survey of the distribution and abundance of these tuna during the fishing season. Mr. Gordon says that an analysis of the catch records indicate that the 1750 fish allotted to the northern area will be harvested by September 5 and that the 150 fish allotted to the southern area will be harvested by September 9, thus necessitating their closure at 2400 hours local time on the respective dates.

As a result, fishermen may not keep any Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing in excess of 300 pounds after closure, but they may continue to fish for these giant tuna under a special tag-and-release permit issued by the Southeast Fisheries Center, Miami, Florida.

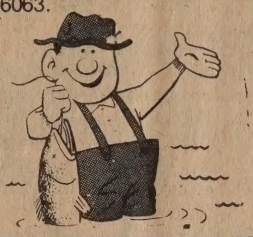
GREATER NEW YORK BOAT SHOW WILL BE SPORT EXTRAVAGANZA

The Greater New York Boat Show, scheduled to debut at Yachtsmen's Cove Marina at the foot of South Main Street in Freeport, Long Island, September 21-25, will offer visitors a huge display of boats, in and out of the water, engines and marine accessories.

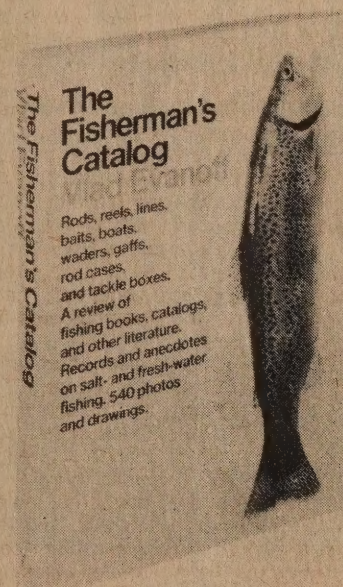
Display space in this first industry-endorsed show on Long Island is going fast, according to Marine Trades Association Show Committee officials. Practically every major line of power boat will be exhibited, from open sportfishermen to trawlers and luxury yachts, and sailboat enthusiasts also will find many of the major lines to choose from. A tent will house exhibits of marine engines, fishing gear, electronics and accessories, displays which traditionally draw many visitors to in-the-water boat shows.

Charles Pigadis, President of the Marine Trades Association of New York which is endorsing the Greater New York Boat Show, said that funds from the show will be put back into the industry, where they will be used to promote the sport of boating in the area.

Greater New York Boat Show hours will be from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays; from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 12 Noon to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission will be $2.50 for Adults and $1.25 for children of 12 and under. There will be free parking and bus transportation from parking areas and from the Long Island Rail Road station at Freeport. Information: 516-378-6063.



NEW BOOKS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"The Fisherman's Catalog," compiled by Vlad Evanoff gives all the information you need on the latest fresh and salt water fishing tackle and accessories. It covers rods, reels, lines, lures, baits, tackle boxes, waders, clothing and fishing boats. It reviews books, catalogs and other literature. There are fishing facts, tips, feats and anecdotes. THE FISHERMAN'S CATALOG sells for $6.95 and is published by Doubleday & Company, 245 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

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The Long Island **FISHERMAN FISHING TRIP** **CONTEST**

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.

★ *Bonus Prize* ★

Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf!!!

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:

There was no winner this week for our contest, so next week's winner shall receive $20 instead of the usual $10 plus a free fishing trip for two aboard a boat of his/her choice.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

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Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

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CLUB NEWS

OUTBOARD "SKIPPERS" CLUB

The Outboard Skippers Club of the South Shore Power Squadron will hold its monthly meeting at the American Savings Bank, Modell's Shopping Center, Hempstead Turnpike and Newbridge Avenue, East Meadow on Monday, September 12, 1977 at 8:00 p.m. A ranger from the National Park Service will present a talk on the Fire Island National Seashore Park. All outboarders and inboard/outboarders are invited to attend.

PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB

The Patchogue Fishing Club swept the recent casting tournament at Mount Vernon, with a total of 262 points. The tournament was jointly sponsored by the Garcia Corporation and the Eureka Rod and Gun Club.

George Dietz was awarded the John Hayes Memorial Plaque for his first place accuracy score in the spin division, of 96 points. Also in the spin class, Tom Kelenbeck - 95 points and Bruce Wolfson - 71 points. Jim Belmonte had 71 points in the conventional, and Barbara Forbes had 37 points in the Ladies Division.

If our team can hold onto its 96 point lead in this series at the Jones Beach contest on September 11, Patchogue's Casting Team will capture the Garcia Tournament.

FREEPORT TUNA CLUB

The next meeting of the Freeport Tuna Club, Inc., will be held on Thursday, September 11, 1977 at the Freeport Yacht Club, South Grove Street, Freeport, N.Y. The doors will be open at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at 8:30 p.m.

The Club will show a film from the American Sportsman. John Frankenheim, the Director of Black Sunday travels to Australia to fight **"Black Marlin."** This is an excellent film that shouldn't be missed.

"SALTY" FLYRODDERS

The next meeting of the "Salty" Flyrodders of New York, Inc., will be held on September 12 at 8:00 p.m., in the lower hall of the Grace Lutheran Church, 31-20 21st Avenue, Astoria, N.Y.

We will show two very interesting films: one titled "The Spoiler," analyzes and demonstrates the advantages of graphite rods. For those of you who still have reservations in purchasing one of these rods, or want to know more about the qualities of graphite, this is a "must see" film.

We will also run "A Trout, A Fly Rod and You." This is a primer for those just entering the world of fly fishing, but it contains enough valuable information and beautiful Montana trout fishing to satisfy everybody.

CHUM LINES

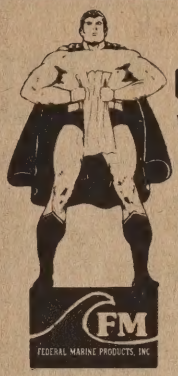
READER BLASTS L.I.F.

I have been an ardent reader of your publication for the past three years and I'm sorry to say your magazine has depreciated greatly.

Take your last issue, for instance. It contained approximately 30 pages of its 47 crammed with advertisements, with an occasional fishing report here and there. Two of your columns were also in favor of promoting two of them—namely Captain Clark and Viking Starship. Merely a coincidence? Your price has increased, and your quality and quantity has diminished. I realize that mailing costs have increased, but obviously, so have your advertisers—which actually sustain your costs and profits!

Please don't forget it was the **"common"** fisherman who made this magazine a success. I suggest you have another public opinion poll regarding your too few columns. **C. Morchisello.**

You're "right on" when you say that "it was the 'common' fisherman who made this magazine a success." You can bet your boots that we read both the good and the negative letters our readers send in. It is our philosophy to produce a publication which serves the needs of our readers. That's why we ran the recent opinion survey and why we'll probably do another real soon. Thanks for taking the time to share your thoughts. Keep reading, and let us know if we get better. **Dr. W. A. Muller**



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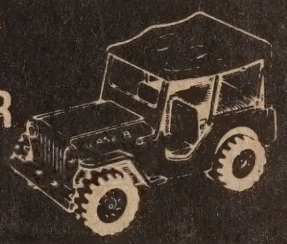

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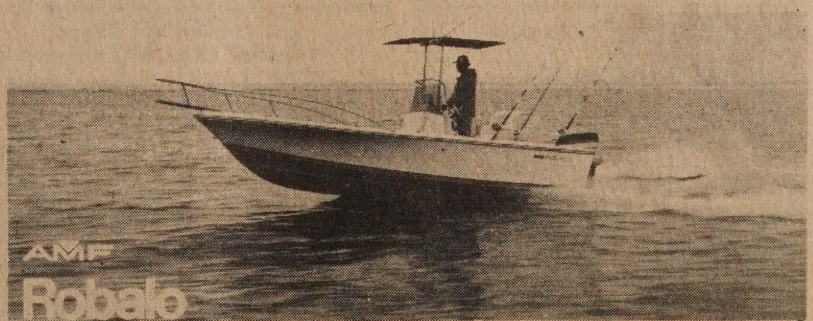

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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

NORTHERN PUFFER
(Sphoeroides maculatus)

PUFFER, BLOWFISH, SWELLFISH, SWELLBELLY, SEA SQUAB are a few of the names used to describe the unassuming northern puffer fish. The fish belongs to the family Tetraodontidae, and various species are found all over the world.

THE LARGEST OF THE PUFFERS—the smooth puffer—is usually found in the Caribbean, reaches two feet in length, and may weigh as much as seven pounds. All of the puffers have the ability to take on water by gulping it into their body cavity when threatened. Their bodies are covered with many spines. These spines are actually modified scales that are larger and harder than the typical scale. When the animal is inflated, the "spines" stick out, which further advances the cause of self-defense.

ALONG THE EASTERN SEABOARD OF THE UNITED STATES there are two common species. The southern puffer normally extends its range from the northern Caribbean to the Carolinas, but may extend slightly more northward in some years. The northern puffer is found from North Carolina to Maine, but is most common in the southern part of its range. Both species look very much alike except that the northern puffer lacks the black bars peculiar to the tail of the southern species. The body is pear-shaped and slightly flattened on the ventral surface when not inflated. The posterior (rear) portion of the fish is out of proportion to the rest of the animal and when the fish is inflated, this visual oddity is further accentuated.

THE DORSAL SURFACE is light brown with orange and yellow tones, and this grades sharply into a pure white ventral surface. The eyes are an unbelievable green, which seems very much out of place. The puffers all have tough mouths with large front teeth. A close look at the front four teeth finds them to be very similar to the front teeth of a human. Have you ever been nibbled on by baby puffers while swimming? These large teeth come in handy since the fish feeds on mollusks, crustaceans, and other shelled, tough beasts on the sea floor. The teeth and powerful jaw muscles are used to crush the protective coverings of the prey they seek.

PUFFERS ARE SLOW! Nature designed a puffer fish to be agile, but not very fast. Mother Nature was evolving a fish that could maneuver around a coral reef, barnacle-covered rock cluster, or ledge with accuracy. In order to feed on the attached food supply, the fish would have to be able to remain motionless while the mouth parts slowly, but surely, broke open the meal. Tiny fins are needed for this business, but tiny fins so capable for achieving maneuverability are useless for speed swimming. Furthermore, these fish spend much of their time feeding in such a position that they are vulnerable from behind and from both sides. The only reasonable defense mechanism was to swell up to a huge prickly ball that nobody would want to eat anyway.

THE CHANGING ANGLING SCENE. A quick tour through the pages of old fishing annuals and magazines leaves you with the unmistakable impression that nobody cares about blowfish. If you test your recollection a little bit, I think that you'll recall how all of us considered the fish to be a nuisance. We would catch them when we really wanted winter flounder or fluke or summer-run weakfish. We would often scratch their bellies and watch them swell up before we released them—but release them we did.

SURF FISHERMEN KNEW THE VALUE OF BLOWFISH! Still, for some fishermen, the blowfish were a welcomed species—especially the young-of-the-year which would pour out of our bays in the fall, and stream along the beaches where bass and blues were eager to gobble them up.

THE WORD GETS OUT! Puffer tails are great eating and more and more fishermen began to realize the potential of this species on the dinner table. Soon a directed sportfishery developed for the blowfish. They are easy to clean. Turn them on their backs and cut through the backbone, but not completely through the skin on the dorsal side. The cut should be made a little behind where the round part of the body ends. Now, if you grab the front and tail portions that you have just cut in each hand and pull, the skinless tail will emerge, ready for the frying pan.

BLOWFISH HAVE NOT BEEN TOO PLENTIFUL. However, there have been some signs of the recovery of the species in recent years. It's hard to say when they'll become as abundant as they once were; but it looks promising that they'll be around in sufficient numbers to provide excellent sport during the summer months.

TRAPPING BLOWFISH IS NOW A DIRECTED FISHERY! Apparently these funny little fish have an amazing curiosity, and the drive to satisfy their hunger lures them into any one of a number of trap-like devices. There are three species of fish that I know of that can be harvested in significant numbers using this method. These are: the blowfish, the sea bass, and the blackfish. The usual trap is very similar to a lobster pot, and in fact, lobster pots are frequently used. They are baited and sunk to the bottom. Sometime later, they are retrieved and the fisherman hopes to find it loaded with fish. Along the South Shore, the pots are commonly dropped near wrecks where blowfish are common.

BAITS VARY. I used to do all right with blowfish using squid bait, although I don't think that squid is the preferred choice. Most anglers who seek blowfish use clam pieces and they chum rather heavily with clam as well. Worms are effective, but a little on the expensive side since blowfish are exceptional bait stealers. Then too, blowfish are often found on the same grounds as sand porgies, and the combination of those munching hordes can cost you a fortune in seaworms.

A SMALL HOOK IS NOT NECESSARY. That's not to say that one should try to catch blowfish with a 7/0 hook! A Number One Sproat is a good choice, but some fishermen prefer a Number Four Carlisle. A Hi-Lo rig offers the best all-around possibilities. Other species may also be present in the chum slick and a small hook tied near the sinker will entice the blowfish, while a larger hook tied three feet off the bottom may be just the ticket to take a passing weakfish. It is best to anchor when fishing for blowfish; they are not a fast swimming fish and it may become difficult for them to keep up with a fast-moving bait on the drift.

MIGRATION PATTERN??? Nobody seems to know very much about where the blowfish go in the winter—they simply appear and disappear. It isn't mysterious, however; rather, little research has been done on the subject to date. The species does apparently spawn over sandy bottoms in our shallow bays during late spring and early summer.

THE HIGH COMMERCIAL VALUE OF BLOWFISH ENCOURAGES FURTHER INTEREST. Each year, the demand for puffer tails increases and the prices go higher and higher. In recent years, the demand far exceeds the supply; therefore, marine scientists have been experimenting with techniques and technologies that will make it feasible to raise the blowfish on seafood farms. One such recently-begun enterprise is being

(Continued on page 29.)

Surf Side with David Curti

BAITFISHING AT LIDO BEACH

★ PART THREE ★

Well, for the last couple of weeks I've talked about jetties and how I present baits. This week, we'll get down to nitty-gritty—the baits.

Let me start by saying that the best surf baits are those that are indigenous to the ocean.

Worms: Seaworms appear in the surf in the spring and remain throughout the summer and into the fall. In the spring, I use them on a fish-finder rig. They are also an excellent summer bait on the kiddie rig.

In the past I have been quite successful with weakfish during the last two hours of incoming tide at the Bath House and Cabana Club jetties. When fished by the Hotel Jetty, this rig has also produced a number of school bass.

Clams: I use clams especially after a storm when the beach is littered with shells. They are best fished on a fish-finder rig; spring and summer are the best seasons for this bait.

I use clams in any of the holes, around and in front of all four jetties; but wherever I am, I move down to the Last Jetty after about two hours, especially if I have slack water.

Soft shell crabs: The "piece de resistance" for bass. The way it takes fish on any tide, any winds, and anywhere—it should be illegal. Let me put it this way: I have been skunked only once using crabs. You are practically guaranteed a weakfish.

All you have to do is pick a spot that you like and fish it. I like to fish them in the break in the outer bar, or at the last jetty. I seem to pick up larger fish there.

You can use them on a fish-finder rig, kiddie rig, or on the balloon rig.

The only problem with soft shell crabs is getting them. The only time you can get soft shell Calicos is around the jetties at low tide. If you can find one location that produces them in great numbers—let me know.

Just because I said Calicos, don't discount Blue Claws; they work just as well. If, like me, you have a screw loose, you can buy them in a fish store, in moments of desperation.

One thing to remember, is that soft shell crabs are exactly what the name implies—soft. If you fish them whole or cut them in half, they must be tied on the hook. It is not as much trouble as you think, especially if you are using a bait saving hook like an Eagle Claw.

Take some thread. Make a few turns of the thread high on the hook on the barb. Then put the crab on the hook, wrap it with a few more strands of thread, and finish it off with a simple overhand knot.

Sand Fleas or Mole Crabs: They are my secret weapon. I use them whenever I can dig them. In the past, there were two major colonies located along the beach. One colony is located on the east side of the Bath House Jetty. A second colony is located on the east side of the Last Jetty.

A word to the wise: fish them where you can find them.

Eels: As far as large bass are concerned, those "black snakes" are caviar. During the late summer and the fall run, eels are the only bait I use, with a single exception—which I will go into in a little while.

A lot of fishermen don't fish with eels for the same reason they don't fish crabs. They're too much trouble. Sure, the eel can back up on your line and tie itself up like nothing you've ever seen. Man, however, is an ingenious little devil, and I've got two methods that prevent this.

One way is to keep the eel cold. Sure, that's easy in November, but what about those warm nights? Get yourself a large plastic bucket. Poke some holes in the bottom and the sides. Fill the bucket half full of ice. Get yourself a collander (spaghetti strainer) and take the handles and legs off so it will easily slide up and down in the plastic bucket. Place the eels in the collander and cover the top of the bucket with a damp rag.

The ice lowers the eels' body temperature, placing them in a semi-dormant stage. They then become sluggish and easy to handle. Unlike other fish, the rapid change in body temperature does not harm them, and they recover easily once in the water.

The second method is a little simpler. Take about a four inch piece of wood dowel and push it down the eels throat. This prevents the eel from twisting up on the hook. After a short time in the water, the eel will throw the piece of wood.

Eels are best fished at night during a good southwest blow. It may not be the most comfortable conditions for the fisherman, but big bass love a sloppy night sea, and come right into the wash.

I use them on a fish-finder rig in the break in the outer bar or in one of the holes. While I'm on the subject of tackle, I don't care what anyone says—in my opinion, this type of fishing is strictly for conventional tackle. You are not dealing with schoolies here: these bass usually go well over twenty pounds.

Drag settings are such a critical part of this fishing that spinning reels just don't measure up. With a conventional reel all you have to do is set the drag, put the reel on free spool and either hold it or first set the clicker and then put it in a sand spike. With spinning, you have to leave the bail open or set it when you are fighting the fish. Invariably you will set it too tight and the line will part.

When the fish hits, let it run, and I mean run. Take the clicker off and hold your finger on the spool. Don't engage the reel until after the fish stops its first run. Then engage the reel, count to ten slowly, and hit the fish hard twice. Then hold on and let the drag do its work. Shortly, you'll be able to take line, and with a little luck, a cow will be on your stringer.

What about those fall nights when the northerly winds are announcing the start of the mullet run? Well, on those nights you have two choices: you can free swim them in the rips around the jetties at high tides, or you can put them on a balloon rig. This method has produced some very nice blues when the balloon has taken the eel past the outer bar.

Bunker and Mackerel Chunks: There is one basic rule that can be applied to both bunker and mackerel—they must be fresh.

The spring is the best time for mackerel chunks, for obvious reasons—that's when they are around. Bunker, on the other hand, can be fished any time; but my favorite time of the year is fall.

I use both mackerel and bunker on a fish-finder rig, during spring and summer. When the glorious fall comes, I engage in some of my favorite fishing. I fish unweighted plug-cut bunker in the rips in front of the jetties.

Live Bunker, Mackerel, Snappers, and Blackfish: Beyond a doubt, the best bait for any fish is live bait, and the best method is live lining.

Live bunker and mackerel are very hard to come by in the surf, so I will concentrate on blackfish and snappers. Either can be caught from the jetty, providing you bring another rod.

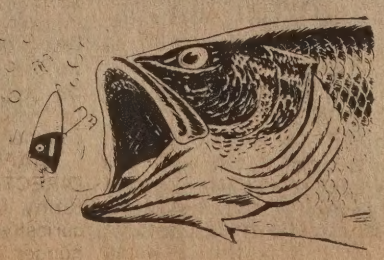
To tell you the truth, the only time I use blackfish for bait is when someone else catches them for me. This is easy in the fall. A lot of fishermen go for blackfish on the large jetty by the Azores Hotel. If you ask them nicely, they will give you one of the small ones that they would normally throw back.

Blackfish, by nature, always run for the rocks, and it is a real job to keep them out of them. Usually you lose them before a bass gets at it.

Snappers are a whole other story. I have a six foot light action rod with a Mitchell 300. I simply attach a small Sidewinder lure and as soon as I catch a snapper, I rig it on my surf stick.

I fish them two ways: if they are small, I put them on a kiddie rig; larger snappers I like to live line.

Next week, I will give you some hints about fishing this beach.



Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

Early Fall Flounder

Most flounder fishermen expect their fall fishing season to begin sometime in October. Indeed, many feel it most important to wait until the cooling breath of autumn has made itself known before dunking bait. At one time, I felt the same way. It was usual for me to stick with fluke until the last dying gasp of summer before I even allowed my thoughts to dwell on the coming flounder season.

But one day at the end of August some years ago, Nick Hauck and I were weakfishing in the deep hole at the mouth of Schaeffer's Creek in Island Park. If any weakfish were about that day, we couldn't prove it, for after putting in all morning we hadn't so much as had a hit. Finally discouraged by all this, Nick added a small hook a couple inches above the sinker, impaled a piece of sandworm on it, and dropped the rig overboard hoping, he said, to nail a kingfish or two.

He didn't get any kingfish. What he did get was a fat, two-pound flounder. No matter how hard we tried to land another, we couldn't. In fact, that flounder was the only fish caught that day. The significance of this unexpected catch didn't dawn on us until we were on the way home. While we knew flounder were caught throughout the summer in isolated areas, we had been fishing Island Park waters for years and couldn't recall this ever happening to us. Would it be worthwhile, we asked each other, to wait a week and take a shot at fall flounder fishing? Maybe we were actually missing out on some good action. We figured, why not? What did we have to lose.

We waited out the week and tried again. Strike out—nothing! So much for fall flounder fishing in September. Well ... we had tried, and that's all dedicated fishermen can do.

It was a week or so later when my thoughts of fall flounder fishing became stronger. I was possessed by that clairvoyant hunch familiar to all fishermen. If I was smart, I'd better do something about it. I explained how I felt to Nick and told him that if he was willing, I'd pick him up in the morning and we'd give it a whirl.

This time, however, things were vastly improved. We connected to the tune of twenty-two fat flounders, though none were as large as that first one of two weeks before, but good fish, nevertheless. The deep weakfish hole didn't produce a bite, but the creek did—we found our fish there in twenty feet of water. And to prove to ourselves that it was no one-shot deal, we returned the next day and repeated the action. From that time on, you can bet we "rush" the season along about mid-September whenever we can: we usually do okay.

I must tell you, though, that there are two things about this early fall flounder fishing that are important. One is that our fish are always caught in water from fifteen to twenty feet deep—no more, no less. I don't know for sure if this is because the water at these depths is cooler than the surrounding areas, but I suspect it is. But then, if this is so, why is it that when we fish the same depths in Reynold's Channel (short feet away one might say) during mid-September, we don't do as well? It seems the fish head directly for the local creeks. It beats me, and I wish I knew the answer.

The second important thing seems to be that the best of this mid-September action is most likely to be found at the western end of Long Island. Except for water temperature as a reason, I can't figure that one either; but that's the way I've found it over many years. Actually, it isn't until after the first few days of October have passed that flounder fishing improves out east in such areas as Shinnecock and Peconic.

I find most flounder caught in mid-September are fair sized, averaging a half to three-quarter pounds, with an occasional one pounder and better adding spice to the action. Evidently these early-run fish feed well throughout summer, for they are fat and frisky, putting up a good scrap on light tackle.

This, of course, makes the use of light spinning equipment ideal. If you have this, by all means use it for it gives these scrappy fish a chance to pour on the steam and show their stuff. A light spinning rod equipped with a matching reel filled with six to eight pound test mono is a perfect combination.

If all you have is light conventional tackle, you can get by, of course; but even with this I wouldn't use anything heavier than ten pound mono. With it you can use light sinkers. The secret of getting the maximum amount of fun with flounder is to go as light as possible. I know some fishermen use fifteen and twenty-pound mono on light conventional tackle and they seem satisfied with their choice—but as I say, more enjoyment is to be had with the light stuff.

If you know the area you plan to fish has weak tidal currents, you can probably get by with a one-ounce bank sinker when using light mono. Rarely will more than two ounces be necessary in such places. Should you fish where sinkers heavier than this are required, then I would think about using a light to medium-weight conventional rod. When three and four ounce sinkers are necessary to combat currents, it makes light spinning tackle difficult to handle, but conventional tackle will give no trouble at all.

There is only one thing of prime importance to keep in mind when rigging terminal tackle for flounder. If you want your share of the fish, make sure those baited hooks are always on bottom.

Yes, I know, you'll meet fishermen who will tell you they have caught flounder on hooks placed as much as two feet off bottom. But what they don't tell you is that they are either fishermen with much experience who know exactly what they are doing, or they are novice fishermen who unwittingly allow so much slack in their line that the hooks are on bottom anyway. Needless to say, when this happens, these unaware fishermen miss more flounder than they catch simply because they have no control over their lines. Be advised to always rig so that your hooks are on bottom.

To guarantee this, use a tandem rig. If at any time you hear mention of a good fish-catcher called a Canarsie rig—this is the same one. And it is good. It has accounted for untold thousands of flounder over the years. Anything that good deserves to be used by all flounder fishermen. Fortunately, tying this rig is simplicity itself; so don't attempt to make it difficult.

Use two hooks and fold the snell of one at its middle. Run this fold through the knotted loop of the second hook, then take this hook and return it through the fold of the first. Draw up snug and secure with a common overhand knot to avoid sliding along the snell. It takes but seconds and you know both hooks will be on bottom when tied in on the main line about two inches above the sinker. Use a double-overhand loop on the main line for this.

Let me take a minute out here, and caution you about using flounder spreaders. Experienced flounder fishermen will tell you that the less hardware used for bottom fishing, the better. This is the basic rule all expert bottom fishermen use.

If you are a beginner at the game, heed the experts' advice and start off on the right foot. Have nothing to do with flounder spreaders. Sure—because of the added weight—they do help you to cast better when shore fishing, but that's all the advantage you'll have. These abominations snag on the least bit of obstructed bottom, become festooned with weed, and lack the sensitivity needed to feel the bite of the occasional cautious flounder. Take my word for it—forget flounder spreaders. Nothing will put flounder in the bucket as easily as a tandem-tied rig.

The standard flounder hook is the Chestertown, in sizes nine or ten. I think number nine has the edge. Bait up with inch-and-a-half pieces of sand or bloodworm. If you can get a few bank mussels, you'll find this bait tops at this time of year, just as they are for early spring fishing. Always make sure the hook is exposed about a quarter to a third of an inch from the end when using worm. Flounder never notice and it assures quick hooking.

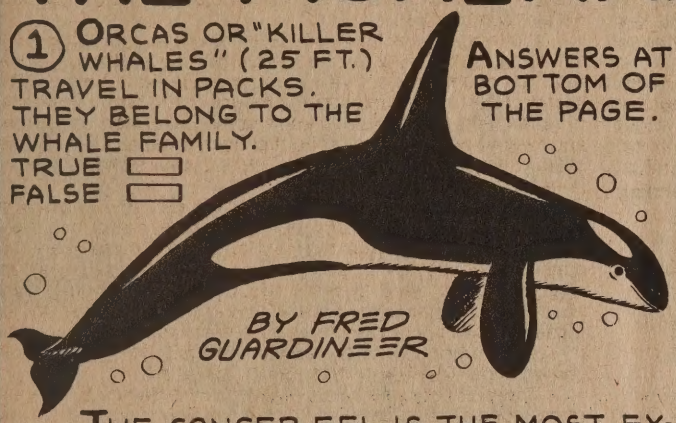
One more thing: I've always found these early fall flounder active; therefore, I don't consider chum necessary as when spring fishing. You'll find they need no coaxing.

I think if the opportunity presents itself, you should give this early fall fishing a try. I'm sure that like me, by the time October rolls around, you'll already have gotten in some good fishing before the season goes into full swing.

THE FISHERMAN "IQ" TEST

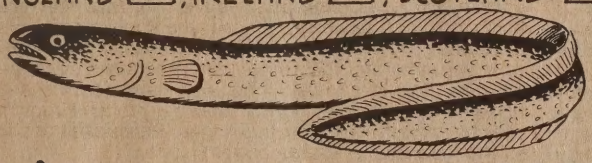
(1) ORCAS OR "KILLER WHALES" (25 FT.) TRAVEL IN PACKS. THEY BELONG TO THE WHALE FAMILY.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.



(2) HOW DO SLOW SWIMMING SHARKS SUCH AS "WHITE-TIPS" CATCH MUCH FASTER SWIMMING TUNA?

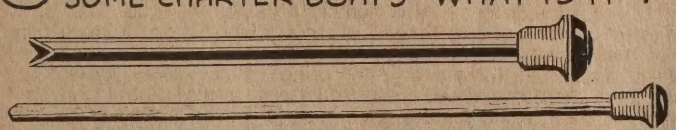
(3) THE CONGER EEL IS THE MOST EXCITING OFFSHORE FISH CAUGHT IN THE NOT SO GOOD OFFSHORE FISHING IN ENGLAND ☐, IRELAND ☐, SCOTLAND ☐



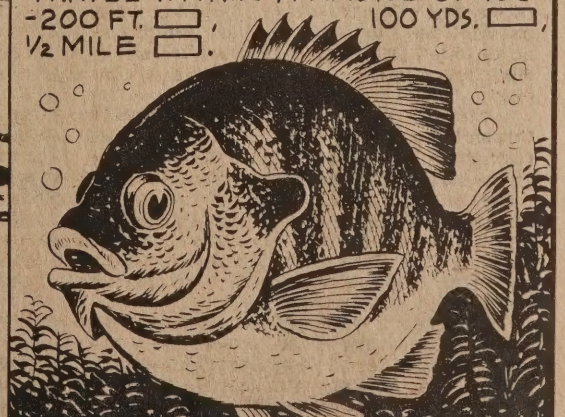
(4) ARE DOLPHINS CAUGHT IN THE SURF?
YES ☐
NO ☐

(5) IN 1908, "SOS" BECAME THE INTERNATIONAL DISTRESS SIGNAL. THE INITIALS STAND FOR "SAVE OUR SHIP".
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

(6) THIS TWO-PIECE TOOL IS CARRIED ON SOME CHARTER BOATS - WHAT IS IT ?



(7) HOW FAR DO BLUEGILLS SWIM? STUDIES SHOW THEY TRAVEL WITHIN A RADIUS OF 100-200 FT. ☐, 100 YDS. ☐, ½ MILE ☐.



1 - FALSE. THEY ARE ACTUALLY THE LARGEST MEMBERS OF THE PORPOISE FAMILY.
2 - THEY DRIFT TAIL DOWN IN THE MIDST OF MILLING BAITFISH AND FEEDING TUNA UNTIL A TUNA ACCIDENTALLY LEAPS INTO THE SHARK'S MOUTH. 3 - ENGLAND.
4 - NOT USUALLY. THEY ARE FISH OF THE OPEN SEA. 5 - FALSE. "SOS" DOESN'T STAND FOR ANYTHING. 6 - IT IS A DEBONER USED TO REMOVE THE BACKBONE FROM BAITFISH BEING RIGGED FOR TROLLING. 7 - 100 TO 200 FT.

If you have never caught a doormat fluke (which in my estimation is a fluke in excess of seven or eight pounds), the next two or three weeks will be the time to do it. In fact, if you fish in the right place, on the right tide, with the right bait, it's practically a sure bet you'll get that first doormat! The whole key to success is in the technique used—which is quite different than when fishing during mid-season for the smaller fish. Make up your mind from the start that you are going to fish exclusively for big fish and forget about the little ones. Forget the little baitfish normally used for fluking—sand eels, killies, spearing. USE BIG BAITS! Doormat fluke go on a feed this time of year to fatten up prior to their offshore migration to the Continental Shelf wintering grounds, and they become quite aggressive. Still they won't spend the energy to compete with the smaller, faster fluke to chase a sand eel that weighs a fraction of an ounce—victory just is not worth the effort! But throw something decent at them and the big fluke will pounce all over it with a vengeance!

INSHORE FISHING

with Scott J. Simons

DOORMAT FLUKING

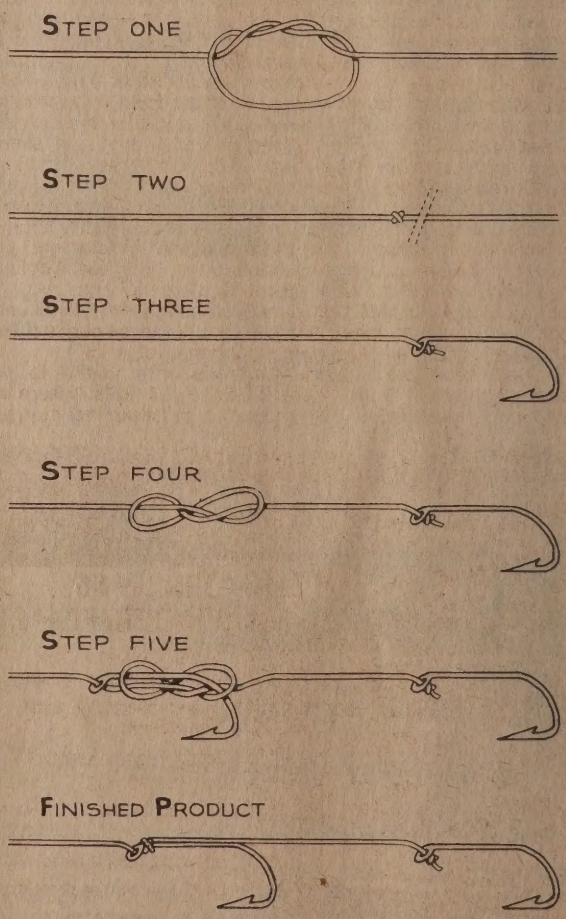
★ Part One ★

So, selection of bait is obviously important and should be given a high priority. You want something big, preferably fresh whenever possible. The number one, supreme first choice in fluke bait this time of year is a live snapper, six to eight inches long. Catch about a dozen snappers per angler who will be fishing either the evening before or the morning of the fishing trip, and keep the snappers alive. If you don't have some type of live baitwell, keep them fresh in a bucket of ice water—but **don't** freeze them. The reason snappers are such a good bait this time of year should be obvious—they compose a large part of the fluke's diet because of their numbers.

Live weakfish fry would also make a great fluke bait if it wasn't against New York State's Conservation Laws to catch weakfish under twelve inches. Next in line is a live, or fresh-dead tinker mackerel, eight to ten inches, followed closely by a whole, fresh local squid seven to nine or more inches long. Lacking fresh bait, buy large frozen baitfish such as whole (not dressed) smelt, the "finger" size mullet used by offshore fishermen, or LARGE spearing. But before I would use a frozen bait, I would opt for a fresh strip bait. Cut up a medium-size fluke in pennant-shaped strips eight to twelve inches long, as shown in the photo. If you are fidgety about "wasting" a good fluke as bait, keep in mind the possible reward. A few years ago at Montauk, my father cut up a fluke of over four pounds to catch one of eight! Strip baits can be cut from almost any fish and be effective: I caught three nice fluke earlier this year on a porgy strip bait. (Another trip on the L.I.F. boat saw "Son of G. Korn" take a ten pound weakfish on a strip of porgy!) Last weekend, Doc Muller took a mess of fluke in the North Rips at Montauk on a strip bait cut from a bluefish. (The largest, a ten pound doormat, was taken on a live snapper courteously thrown at him with great accuracy by Capt. Charlie Nappi from the charterboat Darius II.) But my order of personal preference for types of fish to cut strip baits from would be: fluke, large mackerel, large bergalls, large sea robins, small bluefish, jumbo squid and sundials, followed by whatever. Here's a trick that will provide you with some terrific strip baits without wasting any precious food fish: take a weakfish or a bluefish and fillet it. But when you skin them, do it a little sloppy so that about a quarter of an inch of meat remains with the normally discarded skin. Put the fillets on ice and cut the skin into long strip baits—great bait for large fluke and small.

One habit that large fluke have which can be depended on will dictate the rig you use. Fluke—both large and small—will **invariably** strike a bait either on the tail or at mid-body and virtually never will take the bait "head" first, which is where a single hook rig would place the hook out of necessity. As a result, many anglers will "miss" a remarkable number of strikes from short-biting fluke. It is possible to hook-up a fair percentage of the time, if you have mastered the "drop-back" technique, but why fool around when there's a better way?

These doormat fluke ranging up to 15 lbs. were taken in the North Rips at Montauk by anglers fishing aboard the *Marlin IV*.



The tandem-hook fluke rig places a second "stinger" hook in the tail of the bait where the short-strikers bite. Just follow the simple directions and diagram for tying the rig or fashion your own. The only commercial version I have seen that I found acceptable were tied by Charlie Nappi, who holds the fifty

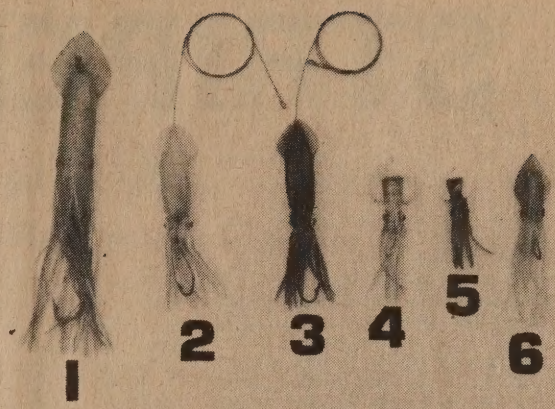
pound class I.G.F.A. world record with the twenty-two pound, seven ounce doormat he caught on a live snapper on Montauk's south side on September 15, 1975, but these rigs are hard to get. If you ever come across any, buy a good supply—they're good. The tandem hooks you tie yourself should have a snell (leader) of at least thirty inches, preferably thirty-six inches. Tie this into a dropper loop a good twelve inches above the end loop for the sinker.

Basically, I am primarily a bait fisherman, except for diamond jigs, but last year at this time I made a discovery that really started the old wheels turning. I was fishing for fluke in the Midway Rips with my friend, Frank. We had two rods out: Frank had a live snapper on and I had a whole fresh squid, both rigged on tandem-hook rigs. There was a lull in the fishing as the tide wound down before the change, so I decided to do a little experimenting. Frank Hussan of Applied Oceanographic had given me a few samples of their line of "Chummin' Squids" to try out on fluke. They are plastic squid that have a little pocket built in for a special capsule. The capsule slowly dissolves in the water, and smells like squid to the fish. Somewhat leery, I rigged one up on another rod on a three-foot leader, tied it about a foot above the sinker, shoved in the "squid" pellet, and began to jig it on the bottom.

No more than three or four lifts of the rod and BAM! A fluke of five pounds jumped on it. Bam! An eight pounder! Bam! Another eight pounder. Then I ran out of pellets, and after ten minutes of unproductive jigging, I put a short strip of squid on the plastic squid just to give it a little smell. That did the trick, and I quickly hung a few more fluke. Meanwhile, Frank took a rod that was rigged with an Ava-67 diamond jig, put a short strip of squid on it and jigged two fluke.

But here's the really remarkable part of the episode. When the tide slacked and the fishing died, we pulled in the rods with the live snapper and whole squid that had been in the rod holders during all the time the large fluke were committing suicide on the Chummin' Squid I was jigging. I couldn't believe it—the live snapper was livelier and the whole squid was fresher than when we put them down, with nary a tooth mark on either! The fluke just weren't interested. They wanted something moving, which probably triggered some kind of aggressive feeding instinct—but it had to have a smell. When I ran out of squid pellets, they wouldn't hit, until I put on a real strip of squid. When a fluke hit the plastic squid short and took the strip of squid without getting hooked, I wouldn't get another hit. Same thing with Frank and the diamond jig and squid strip—no smell, no fluke. So it looks like Applied Oceanographic had the right idea with their squid pellets. It's also interesting to note that Doc Grell caught his six pound class I.G.F.A. world record eighteen pound, three ounce fluke on a plastic squid sleeved over a diamond jig.

Next week, we'll wind things up with where to go (Montauk and the South Shore Inlets, etc.), tides, where to look for doormats (bottom formations) and fishing techniques.



Imitation plastic squid are great for taking doormat fluke when they are jigged over the bottom. From left to right: 1. *Psycho Squid,* sleeved over an Ava-87 diamond jig; 2 and 3. *Chummin' Squid* by applied oceanographic that were mentioned in the text; 4 and 5. *Chummin' Squid* with lead heads by Applied Oceanographic; 6. the new *Ha-Ha Squid* by John Sekora.

Fluke "belly" is one of the best baits you can use for doormats. Strip baits are cut as follows: Make a vertical cut behind the gill plate; then make a horizontal cut along the lateral line. Then make a second cut alongside this one, tapering the strip so that it comes to a point near the tail. One medium fluke will yield at least 8 strip baits, the dark side strips preferred.

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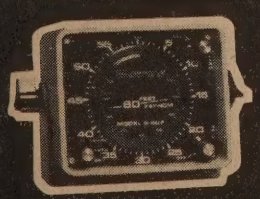

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TROLLING FOR STRIPED BASS

by Ron Onorato

★PART ONE★

The fall run of striped bass along the Long Island coast is perhaps one of the most celebrated events of the fishing season. All eyes are now turned to the migrating schools of fish as they stream down the coast, feeding at various points along the way. It is now that the striper fanatic is at his finest hour. Those many fishless trips that he endured during the hot summer months all seem worth the trouble for now his rewards will be great. If there is any time that will produce fish, this is it.

While the fall fishing usually provides the most consistent catches of the year, recent fishing has been but a shadow of the great runs of years gone by. There is a lack of fish of all sizes, and there is great pressure put on them by an increasing number of fishermen. Despite these shortcomings, October is about the best bet if you're looking for some good bass.

As the summer winds down and the cool weather makes its presence known, this signals to the bass that the time to start moving has come. For most of the summer, the bass will have spent its time in many of the South Shore bays and creeks. It is these fish that will provide the first start of fishing. Usually the first cold Northeast storm of the fall will get the fish moving. The associated cooler temperatures gets the baitfish such as the mullet and bunker schooled up and they start moving from the bays. As further storms and cooler temperatures follow, more and more fish arrive in local waters, having traveled from various spots to the North.

Whether it be at Montauk or along the South shore of Long Island, these fish are on the move and they are gorging themselves, getting fat for the long trip South. Without a doubt, the best way to go at these fish is by using the time honored method of trolling with wire line. There are occasions where the fish will be feeding right on the surface and the casters will get their shots. Then of course there are the bait fishermen who will have their day, and they will probably take the biggest fish. But for day in and day out consistency, the wire line troller will be more effective over the long run.

Despite the fact that there may be a considerable amount of fish in the region, many would be trollers still have a hard time trying to connect. For many reasons they fail to achieve even reasonable success, and in these days of decreasing fish stocks, you have to be even sharper. The days of just going out any old place and finding huge schools of bass are over; you have to approach this type of fishing scientifically.

Author shows what is possible when trolling for stripers.

In the first part of this article we will discuss the basic tackle requirements that you'll need to get off on the right track. Then in the second part, we take a look at some of the many lures that are available, and the techniques that are used for their effective deployment.

Let's start from the bottom and work our way up to the tackle requirements. The number one thing that most people overlook is their boat and how it's equipped. There is no special type of boat that you need for bass trolling, virtually any will suffice in reasonably good weather. However, seldom is there good bass fishing on those clear calm days. More often than not, the wind is blowing and conditions are not exactly the best when the fish decide to go on the feed. Indeed some of the best bass fishing has occurred in some pretty nasty blows. Rough and windy weather disorients the baitfish to a great degree, and they are more susceptible to attack from predators, and the bass are quite aware of this and will usually feed heavily at this time. Therefore, you should have at your disposal a vessel that will allow you to get out in some sloppy weather and fish with a degree of safety as well as comfort.

As important is the boat, is its power plant. The engine must be able to take hours and hours of slow idling. On some of the bigger boats, adjustments to the carburetor are made prior to the anticipated run so that effortless trolling can be accomplished. You do not want to be fooling around with the engine when the run is on; all this should be taken care of prior to the fishing.

Without an exception, the single most important tool aboard the boat aside from the fishing tackle is the depth recorder you have. There are few successful trollers along the South Shore that do not rely very heavily on the use of the recorder as their main source of locating fish. Of course, by using observations and past experiences these

experts further increase their success, but for many, no depth recorder means no fish.

By taking a look at the overall picture, you can see how necessary it is to have the machine as an aid in locating the fish. I will limit the discussion to the South shore regions of Long Island where most of the trolling takes place. Unlike Montauk or Cuttyhunk, there are no tide rips or reefs to indicate where feeding stripers are located. Rather there is just one long piece of water with a very uniform bottom structure that aids very little in attracting bass. What attracts the fish then is the concentrations of various types of baitfish that are scattered at various depths along the beach.

In order to locate the bass, you'll have to locate the baitfish, the two usually go together. You most certainly won't find bass where there is little bait. You may not even find them where there is a lot of bait, but at least you're in the ballpark. Without the recorder, you're virtually blind, and you'll be relying more on luck than skill and that's not good.

Now let's move along to the terminal tackle and this too is very important. We'll start with the reel and then move along to other areas. Talk to any bass troller about which reel he prefers to use when wire line trolling, and you'll get so many different responses that you can get awfully confused. There are several that you can effectively use, with some being a little better than others. My own personal preference is the Penn 3/0 Senator with the extra fast retrieve. This reel will hold an adequate amount of wire line and will stand up to the heavy daily use that a trolling reel must be faced with. The problem with some of the other smaller reels is that they really can't hold up to heavy use. Some trollers use the 500M by Penn, with good results, and the extra fast 5 to 1 retrieve certainly is helpful when you're dragging in large amounts of wire, but for some reasons, the gears wear out very quickly and become very rough after heavy usage. Another popular reel is the Penn levelwind, #309. This reel is equipped with a moving guide on a crossbar across the face of the spool, and this allows the wire line to be wound up evenly without guiding it with your fingers. Again for occasional use this is nice, but not for consistent usage. Regardless of which reel you may select, a metal spool is an absolute must. Another absolute must is to disassemble any reel that you plan on using, and give it a good lubrication with oil. Lately the reel manufacturers have been a little sparse on the amount of lube they put into the reel at the factory and the result of this has been reels that seize up the first time they are taken out of the box.

The type of wire that you can use really isn't that extensive, so it really isn't too much of a problem. For the consistently best results, monel trolling wire has been the ticket. There are other types of wire on the market that advertise themselves as trolling wire, but are not as flexible or easy to handle as the monel is. Stick with the monel, the price may be a little high, but when you consider how much money is already invested in this game, the cost is really small.

Monel trolling wire comes in four sizes generally; 20, 30, 45, and 60 pound test. For our purposes, 20 and 60 pound tests are either too heavy or too light, so either of the middle choices are ample. Some of the experienced trollers favor the 30 pound wire as they feel that the lighter wire diameter allows them to reach the desired depths with a little shorter amount. For most, however, the 45 pound wire gives them an extra measure of strength not afforded by the lighter pound test wire.

Putting the wire on the reel properly is one of the most important things to do concerning this wire line deal. First and foremost, never put wire directly on any spool. You should always use a 100 foot length of 50 pound mono line wound directly onto the spool and this acts as the backing. You attach the wire line to the mono backing by means of a small barrel swivel. Care must be taken when putting new wire line onto the reel. You must make certain that the wire is pretty tightly wound and there are no loose spots. If there are loose spots, the wire that is wound over it will have a tendency to dig into the underlying wire and then you'll really have problems. If you feel the wire isn't wound onto the spool properly, then the first trip out, let the wire out to the backing and then rewind it onto the reel. This will allow even pressure to be applied to the entire length of the wire line.

The usual length of wire line put on the reel is 300 feet long. For almost all trolling conditions, this will be more than enough, rarely will you need more than 300 feet of wire, if you feel that you're not getting deep enough you can add drails, more on this will follow in the next part.

Regardless of what type lure you use, a length of monofilament leader is an absolute must. Every bass fisherman has his own ideas as to the length of the leader to be employed. For all general purposes, a 20 foot length of 50 pound mono attached to the wire by means of a tiny barrel swivel should be enough Remember that the barrel swivel should be able to fit through all the guides on the rod without getting caught.

The next important step in the process, is to mark the wire line so that you'll be able to get an idea as to how much line you have let out. Generally, the wire is marked every fifty feet. All sorts of devices have been employed by trollers to mark the wire, these include small lengths of telephone wire wrapped around the trolling wire, waterproof tape, and various types of waterproof paints. As far as the telephone wire goes, the copper inside the wire reacts to the monel wire and you get some corrosion at the point of the marking, and this weakens the main line. The paints work pretty well, but only for a short period of time before they chip off the line. Therefore, the waterproof tape seems to be the best choice. Even this however, has to be replaced rather frequently. As mentioned earlier, the markings should be something like this, the first marking at 100 feet, the next at 150, the third at 200 feet, and the last mark will indicate 250 feet. There is no need to mark in between this as you can estimate the length of line in between these markings.

One of the biggest problems that you'll encounter with wire line is the inevitable kink in the line. For whatever reason, this happens to all wire line. When this happens, you should avoid pulling the kink tight in an effort to correct the situation. Rather you should carefully bend back the wire and try to retrace the original outline of the wire. If the kink is already tightly pulled, you have no alternative but to cut off the damaged wire and resplice the line together. A kink in the line can reduce the strength of the wire by as much as 50% or more, and it will be here that the wire breaks when a fish strikes.

The last remaining item here in the combination is the rod, as we'll see later certain types of lures can require different types of rod action for better lure action. About the only important thing here to remember is to be certain that all the guides are carboloy. Regular stainless guides would be grooved in about a week's time by the action of the wire passing over it repeatedly. The carboloy guides will be much more resistant to the cutting action of the wire. Recently ceramic guides have appeared on the market and they too can be used in place of carboloy guides and they have one big advantage, they are not as fragile as the carboloy guides and will stand up better to hard usage. One very common mistake of the novice troller is to use a roller tip on the rod. This should also be avoided as the swivel may get jammed up in the roller, and usually at the most inconvenient time.

This just about wraps up the introductory part of the wire line trolling, if you think you're going to have problems, your best bet is to head down to the nearest tackle shop and ask for some assistance. Next week we'll look at some of the lures you can use, and how to fish them properly.

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FALL CHOPPERS AT NORTH SHORE HARBOR DOCKS

by Don Avondolio

We are now into the fall fishing season for blues. At this time exciting fishing exists for large "choppers" prowling inshore areas for food before their final departure to southerly waters. During the past few months, the blues were sporadically caught in deeper sound water as they were hunting for food such as bunker, spearing, squid, sandeel, eel, or almost anything that might interest their voracious appetite. The gradual cooling Long Island sound waters, the strong northerly winds, and the seasonal changes from hot humid weather to cool, crisp temperatures all influence these fish to a less cautious, voracious eating habit, often feeding more than normal. Also at this time, baitfish are forced into protective harbor inlets by either strong northerly winds or marauding blues herding them into tight quarters where docks, piers are prominently located. Consequently, these are prime reasons why large "teen-size choppers" are caught during September and October deep inside North shore harbors. Another contributing fact is that schools of baitfish normally feed and take habitat near protective dock, pier and bridge areas. Eelgrass and mussel beds are nearby for food sources. Shrimp, snails, worms, and aquatic sealife are all plentiful near bridge and pier abutments which all contribute to baitfish attraction. Snappers are plentiful and readily accessible as predator bait near these docks and as we know, choppers take no exception to feeding on their young.

If previous years' patterns follow, the most ideal time to fish the dock areas is just before the blues departure from the sound. The second or third strong northeast storm is a good indicator of the exodus. Also water temperature must be above 49° F. to hold blues as a general rule. During these rough northeasters, Long Island sound waters will be fairly uncomfortable for boaters and a switch to shore fishing should be welcomed as a change. Sudden explosions of rampaging blues chasing and feeding on bait does occur at this time of year and if you're in the right place at the right time, you can experience some action that will be remembered for some time. Most often this feeding occurs at dusk and into nightfall or just before sunrise. The crazy fact is that there have been exceptions, as daylight does not seem to deter the feeding action.

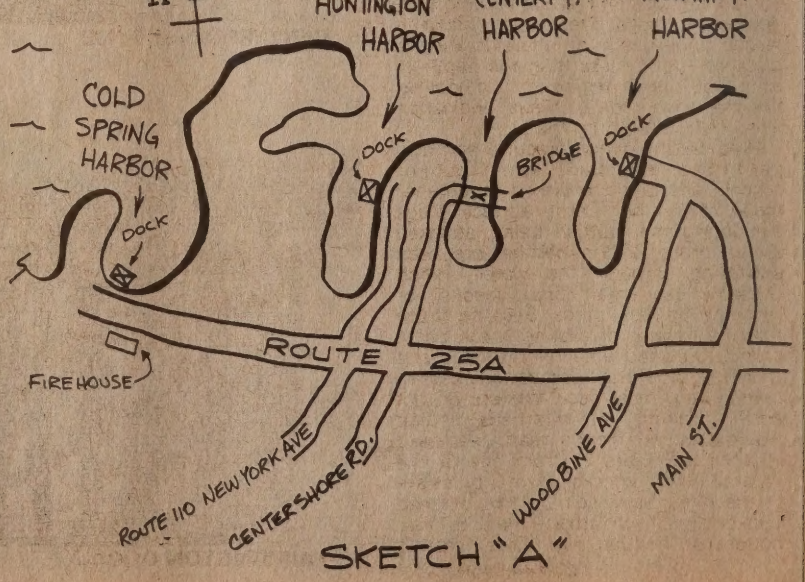
Although bluefishing has decreased comparing this year's action to previous years, the usual pattern of influx into Long Island sound waters is close to normal. The blues arrive at Rocky Point, Port Jefferson, and east while at Hempstead Harbor, City Island and west, there is another showing. The fish ultimately converge in the Huntington, Eaton's Neck, Cold Spring Harbor area by early September and October. Either reading local newspaper reports or the Long Island Fisherman reports, a fisherman can pinpoint the harbors that contain these fish. As with recent years the most popular areas that have been productive and easily travelled by car are as follows: Northport dock, Centerport bridge, Huntington dock at Halesite, and Cold Spring Harbor dock. All of these locations are at the extreme heads of their respective harbors and are open for fishing to non-residents as well as residents. As a more concise guide for the non-resident, I will briefly describe the dock areas, tackle rigs and bait used. The accompanying sketch "A" will indicate simple travel directions to these particular spots.

Northport Dock: The main dock is approximately 200' in total length with several floating docks attached. These floating docks rise and fall with the tide and offer close contact to the water. To the south of the main dock, a 200' stretch of dock exists encompassing a small playground and park. Parking is available in two adjacent parking lots at the foot of Main Street. Blues are caught at almost any location alongside the two large main docks, especially on the west side. A fairly deep boat channel is located parallel to this side.

Centerport Bridge: This bridge crosses the Centerport harbor at its extreme southerly point. The bridge separates the harbor from a large saltwater pond that often contains trapped bunker schools. As the tide reverses, baitfish, etc. are trapped in the pond, which in turn attracts blues to the bridge opening. Mussel beds, and eelgrass sections are common to this area. Parking is on or near the bridge location. Blues can be caught on either side of the bridge at moving tides.

Huntington Dock: This dock approximately 300' in total length is located behind the fire house and situated fairly high off the waters of Huntington harbor. Park benches along with adequate parking are available immediately behind the dock area. Bunker schools are sporadically located near this dock, so watch for their significant surface motion.

Cold Spring Harbor Dock: This area is approximately 125' long near the Cold Spring Harbor boat ramp, parking is located at the dock, or across the street from route 25A. Below the dock is shoreline beach frontage and several floating docks. These docks and beach frontage can be used to advantage for



SKETCH "A"

fishing. Large blues have frequently herded bunker and bait against this frontage in past fall seasons.

There is a deep boat channel passing immediately in front of the dock area heading outward towards Cold Spring harbor inlet.

Tackle for these dock fishing areas is on the heavy side because of the need for lifting heavy fish off the water when caught. An 8' to 9' medium to heavy action boat rod and conventional star drag 1/0, or 3/0 reel will suffice, used with bottom or float rigs. For casting from any of these docks a 7' to 9' medium to heavy spinrod is a wise choice, coupled with an intermediate or heavy size spin reel. The spin reel should contain 20 pound test (minimum) of monofilament while conventional reel should use heavier 30 lb. test mono or squidding line. Incidentally, all these dock locations have bait and tackle stations within walking distance. But make certain that at the time you plan to fish, they are open for business. Other wise, pre-purchase your bait, rigs, etc. before your fishing trip. When bottom fishing, use the popular fish-finder rig, surf rig, or float rig utilizing 40 to 60 pound test mono as a leader attached to your hook. An additional 4'' to 6'' wire leader will protect against the sharp bluefish teeth if used as a connecting link between leader and hook for those who are not gamblers. The fish-finder rig is constructed by tieing one end of a leader to a 2/0 or 5/0 short shank hook and the other end to a barrel swivel. The leader barrel swivel is then attached to your fishing line after it is passed through an egg sinker of proper weight. The surf rig utilizes a three-way swivel. One of the eyes is attached to your fishing line; the second eye to your sinker and the third eye to your leader - hook assembly. If crabs are eating your bait, attach a cork float to your leader to keep it off the bottom. The float rig consists of a large plastic bubble, buoyant enough to support the weight of a bunker chunk. Usually the bubble has a spring plunger for leader attachment. Fasten the hook and leader assembly by depressing the plunger and slipping the leader underneath at approximately a distance slightly less than the depth of water you will be fishing in. The float rig has the advantage of visual indication when bait is taken by the blues.

Plug casting (when practical and also permitted) especially when bunker schools are being attacked is another mode of fishing. Large surface plugs simulating the baitfish being attacked are in order. When baitfish are seen scattering through the water (being chased), use small tins, spoons, or sinking type rebel plugs, Because of the realistic danger of casting these plugs from a crowded area on the dock and possibly hooking someone passing behind you, most dock masters do not permit casting. An alternate method would be to fish from a nearby secluded spot on the shore or from one of the vacated floating docks. Also, if blues are in the immediate vicinity, live or dead bunker smell will attract them to your bottom or floating rig. Thus, casting

(Continued on page 45.)

NORTHPORT DOCK

CENTERPORT BRIDGE

HUNTINGTON DOCK

THE SLUICEWAY

by Tim Coleman

Of all the spots available to the readers of The Long Island Fisherman, I'm willing to bet the least fished is nicknamed The Sluiceway. This spot is regularly fished by the Connecticut boats and a handful of regulars from Orient Point. Outside of the Orient Point boats, few other New York registrations are in attendance.

The Sluiceway is the place of fifty pound plus fish. The place has my vote as one spot capable of producing a world record. Numerous fish over fifty have been taken here, with the largest verified fish of sixty-eight pounds caught on an eel in the spring of 1975. The dockmaster at the marina in Groton, Ct., where the bass was weighed in said the fish was skinny after a spring migration; given a couple months of summer fattening, that bass would have weighed seventy-five to eighty pounds!

This productive spot is located between Plum and Gull Islands. On a calm day, it is approximately forty-five minutes or less from Montauk, Sag Harbor, or even less if you launch or have a boat out at Orient. To help in learning this spot, get the nautical chart which shows this location in detail. As you look between the eastern end of Plum Island and the western end of Gull Island, you will see an above-water rock called Old Silas. Between Old Silas and the western tip of Gull Island is the Sluiceway. It is a shelf over which the tide flows going in and out of Long Island Sound. The water is deeper on both north and south sides of the shelf. When the tide moves in either direction, the tidal flow is forced up a hill onto the shelf that is the Sluiceway. Any time water is forced uphill, you will have a tide rip at the apex of the hill.

The tide flows very swiftly in the Sluiceway. Trolling is possible, but drift fishing is the easier method to master. Because of the number of boats fishing the area it is hard to effectively troll wire line in the same area where boats are continually moving up-tide to make another drift. Believe me, the first couple of times, you are really better off drift fishing.

The standard rig for drift fishing starts with a three-way swivel; number two size is about right. Onto one eye tie four to five feet of sixty to eighty pound mono. Onto another eye of the swivel, tie a short section of mono that is lighter than the line you are using. Onto the end of this line, tie a bank or drail sinker. Depending on the strength of the current, you need anywhere from ten to sixteen ounces to fish the right way. You want to use lighter line for the sinker because of the jagged bottom in the Sluiceway. Your rig will get snagged from time to time. The lighter line will break before the main line: that way you only lose a sinker, not the entire rig.

To complete the rig, tie a 3/0 treble hook onto the end of the longer piece of heavy mono. The treble is the right hook to fish live bunker, which is the preferred daytime bait. At night, eels are the better live bait. For eels, use a short shank, extra strong 7/0 hook normally intended for bonito or albacore.

Besides using bunker or eels, there is a third choice. Tie an ounce bucktail jig with pork rind to the end of the leader. Most regulars make their own jigs. What they do is machine out a mold so they can mold a 7/0 hook into the body of a jig intended for a smaller hook. The reason for the lighter jig is it gets up off the bottom better than, say, a two or three ounce jig. Remember, you will be drift fishing with the bucktail—not dragging it behind 300 feet of wire line.

To understand this place, it is better to go over first in the daytime. Consult a tide chart and be there about one hour after high water. The tide should be flowing then. Outgoing is by far the most productive tide.

During the outgoing tide, the water flows from the northwest to the southeast. Since bass usually take up feeding positions near the up-tide side of the rip, you will find them on the north edge of the Sluiceway during the outgoing tide. In the daylight, you can clearly see the rip line form once the tide

Map shows the location of the Sluiceway which is marked by the arrow.

gets moving. Most of the bass will be hooked right as your boat drifts into the rip, or just a little before the rip.

The standard procedure is to run a short ways up-tide of the rip. Kill the motor, then drift back toward the sloppy water. Lower the rig to the bottom; then keep it there. Even if you have a bucktail on the drift rig, don't move it. The more the rig stays in contact with the bottom, the better your chances of getting a fish.

A word on using the bucktails: when you start drifting, you will feel the sinker banging into rocks as the tide forces your boat down-current. Remember, most of the regulars use bucktails with a light head so it will stay a ways up off the bottom. Now, every time the sinker hits a rock, the bucktail will dip in the water, causing the bucktail hair to flutter and the pork rind to wiggle.

Dont't try lifting the rig. It is important it stays right near the bottom. The same for using bunker or eels. Just hold the rod steady as you drift back. If you can't feel the bottom, either let out more line, or use a heavier sinker.

Most people will not be able to distinguish between the smacking of a sinker against a submerged rock and the actual hit of a fish. Most bass in the Sluiceway must come darting out from behind a rock in a hurry because of the swift current. They only have a short chance to get something that looks good to eat. Because of this, most fish will be hooked by the time you feel them. For that reason, it is very important to have finely-sharpened hooks. Most of the time you never really set the hook. The force of the fish grabbing the lure or bait, usually does it for you—if your hooks are sharp.

One important item for scoring consistently in the

Sluiceway is good shore ranges—especially at night. During the strength of the tide, the fish will pocket out of the current behind a rock. They will hold there until the tide slacks off a bit. So it is important to keep drifting over the same piece of bottom. On nights when there's not that many fish, a distance of 100 feet between two boats can mean the difference between a decent catch and a skunking.

Tackle for the Sluiceway must be on the heavy side because of the big fish, swift currents, and jagged rocks. Fifty pound fish have a habit of running up-tide. More than one trophy has been lost when she cut the line on a boulder, or got stuck in the long, tough, stringy strands of kelp which dot the bottom. You have to be able to muscle fish out of such tough situations.

The most popular reel is the Penn 113H. Some fellows like forty pound mono; the majority of the regulars use fifty pound test Dacron. The sensitivity of the Dacron lets you feel the bottom so much better than mono. There is another reason for the Dacron. Fellows who fish the Sluiceway also spend a lot of time in the deep waters of the Race and a shoal area called Valiant Rock. In these spots, they catch bass in water anywhere from twenty to ninety feet deep. The no-stretch feature of the Dacron is a big help in hooking fish in this deep water.

Rods are on the heavy side, closely approximating a fifty pound class trolling outfit, or perhaps a bit lighter. Some anglers use roller guides, or at least a collar top, but I think a good set of the new ceramic guides are the best way to go. They are worth the extra money.

Once you have the reel, rod and line fixed up, just tie the line to the remaining eye of the three-way swivel of drift rigs that you have already made up. You are now ready to fish.

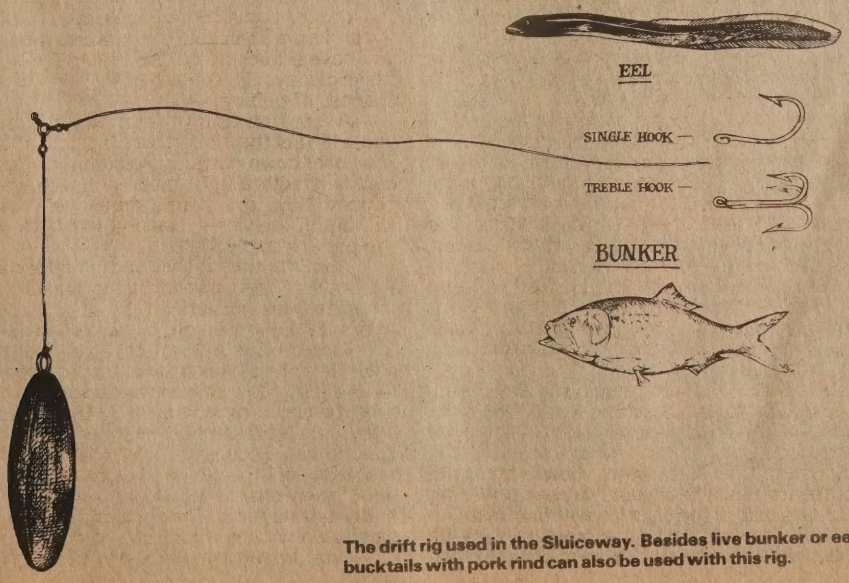
Fish can be taken at all times, from the end of May through November, in the Sluiceway. Lately, the best times have been at night during the full moon. If fishing was slow, there usually was an upswing four days before the moon was full. Good fishing usually lasted until four days after the full moon. Not every night provided super fishing, but the fellows who put in their time got some nice fish.

During the full moon period in June, there was an awful lot of forty and fifty pound fish taken here. During the full moon in August, one man got a fifty-four and a fifty-two in two nights' effort. Another trio of anglers got a fifty-eight, fifty-two, forty-six, and one smaller fish, on August 27th. The next night, two of these anglers went back for ten fish, from eighteen to forty-six pounds. I'm sure there were plenty of other fish over thirty pounds that nobody ever heard about.

The last season or two, bunker fishing in the daytime hasn't produced as it has in the past. During the summer of 1975, there was an unreal run of fish in the Sluiceway: rod and reel commercials told me this was the best fishing they ever had in their lives. One fellow who told me was one of the first ones to take live bunker over to the fabled Sow and Pigs Reef off Cuttyhunk. He had tremendous fishing there at that time, but said the Sluiceway in the summer of 1975 was hard to believe.

Phil Wetmore gaffs a bass that hit a live eel drifted down on the bottom in the Sluiceway during the full moon.

There's still plenty of time to give this spot a whirl before this year draws to a close. Thinking about giving the "Sluice" a whirl in December, won't do you any good. Now is the time to go over and start learning how to fish it. Good Luck! You wouldn't be the first person to visit the taxidermist after a trip to this place.



The drift rig used in the Sluiceway. Besides live bunker or eels, bucktails with pork rind can also be used with this rig.

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** reported that this past week has been about the best for porgies so far this year. The porgies have really been chewing up the bait and some bags of fish this past week needed two men to lift them off the boat. Sat. and Sun day were good despite the weather and on Sunday the first cod of the year was caught mixed in with the porgies.

Jane Perry of Searingtown N.Y. called to say that her 8 year old son Adam Perry and her husband Fred really slaughtered the blues on Capt. John Sweetman's charterboat **Ebb Tide**. Adam took 13 bluefish averaging 10 pounds each and his father Fred took 14 blues. Fishing was southeast of the Light in the Triangle and they caught so many fisn they requested the Captain to return to port early.

Capt. Jimmy Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** said that on Saturday he had a charter for bluefishing in the Triangle, but fishing was only fair due to the poor weather. The night fishing at Cartwright with herring bait is excellent for fish 10 to 12 pounds on herring bait with anglers taking between 10 and 15 choppers a man. During the day the Triangle has been producing on diamond jigs. Codfishing was very good on Sunday at Sharks Ledge. The pool fish was 32 pounds and ten fish were in the 25 to 30 lb. range. The action at Coxe's Ledge has been slow but the cod taken there are all nice size. Jimmy said that the Queen's first Nantucket trip will leave at 10 P.M. on Sunday night, Sept. 25th and will return on Monday. Call Jimmy at 668-2078 for further info.

Capt. Gene Kelly of the charterboat **Sea Doll** called L.I.F. on Monday via the marine operator while he was trolling bluefish in the Triangle. Gene said that during the week he was doing a good job offshore trolling yellowfin tuna on rigged eels and ballyhoo in 35 fathoms of water on the east side of the Butterfish Hole. On Thursday five yellowfin were taken ranging from 40 to 70 pounds. On

Proud "Poppa" Fred Perry helps son, Adam Perry, with bluefish which was one of 27 taken on the Montauk Charterboat "Ebb Tide" on September 6.

Steve and Alice Silvera took these blues on Capt. John DeMaio's "Vivienne" at Montauk. Steve did the hooking, while Alice worked wonders with the gaff.

Friday one yellowfin tuna of 65 pounds was trolled and a small mako shark was taken chumming. When Gene called the bluefish were jumping on to everyone's rigs in the Triangle and they also had one green bonito.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the new super ship **Viking Starship** said that the first special trips for the new boat have been scheduled. A "Tackle Buster Special" offshore wreck trip for giant cod and pollack will sail at 3 A.M. on Sept. 18th and return the same day at 8 P.M. The fare is $40. The first two Nantucket Wreck Trips will be sailing on Sept. 21st and October 3rd at 1 A.M. and return at 9 P.M. the same day. Fare is $55. Call Paul at 668-5924 for further information and reservations.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charterboat **Adios** called to say that during the week he took five yellowfin tuna ranging from 40 to 70 pounds trolling on his way back from the Forty Fathoms area. His charters also took a few dolphin and albacore offshore. Phil said that the day before NMFS closed the season for giant bluefin tuna he had the giants boiling all around the boat but they just wouldn't take a bait for some reason. Maybe they got the word? On Labor Day the **Adios** took two mako sharks and dropped one at the boat. On Friday's afternoon charter Jack Carusso and his friends from Cloister N.J. loaded up with 76 bluefish in the Triangle.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the fluke fishing has been good with big fish being taken at both Midway and the North Rips. The south side has not been very productive for doormats as of yet for unknown reasons. Shark fishing is good offshore with some yellowfin tuna up to 80 pounds being trolled.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** reported that the bluefishing is as hot as ever on diamond jigs in the Triangle. On Saturday Dave Crocco and his friends bailed 44 big bluefish, 2 bonito and 6 weakfish.

Capt. Frank Maccaro of the charterboat **Free Spirit** reported that it was a good week for fishing both inshore and offshore. On Wednesday the Savarise Bros. nailed a 90 lb. mako shark and a 205 lb. blue shark. On

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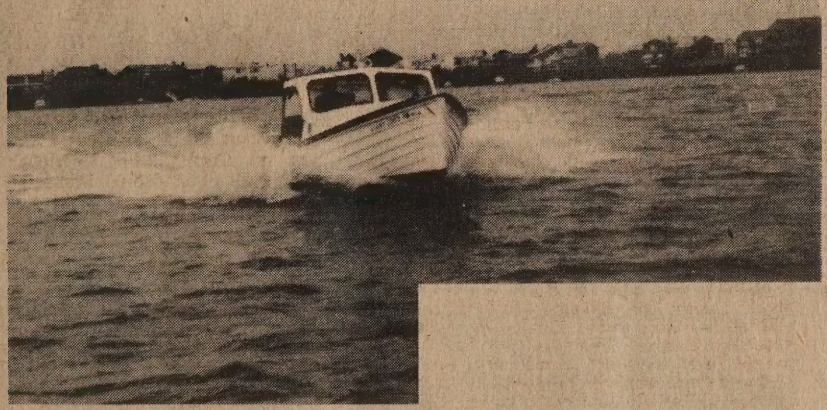

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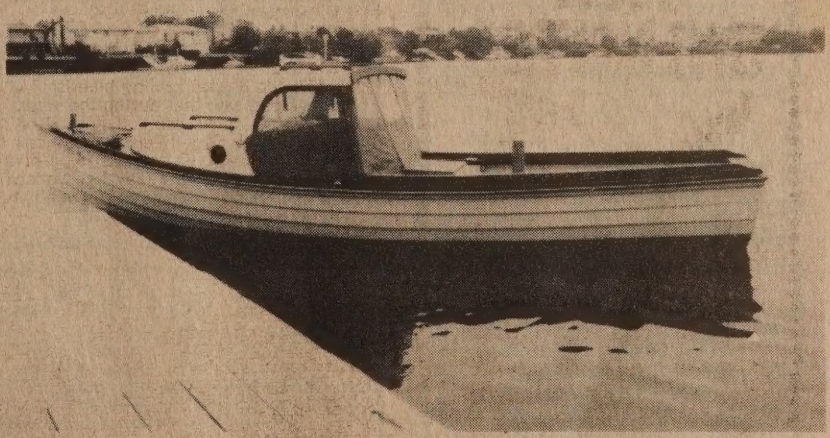

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Thurs. a four man charter took 55 bluefisyh and 12 fluke. Friday's charter fished offshore and tagged three blue sharks and brought in one small brown shark which was cut up for steaks. Saturday's bad weather dictated that the offshore trip take place inshore for bluefish and bonito. Sunday's offshore trip produced three blue sharks. Frank asked us to say he will be starting his captain's course on the 21st of Sept. Call 929-4881 for info.

Gone Fishing Marina reported that some excellent catches of big fluke are being made by anglers fishing in the North Rips. Herb and Ellen Suhr and friend Maurio took over 50 fluke ranging from 5 to 10 pounds in the North Rips on squid and sand eel. Big fluke are best in the North Rips, spotty around Midway and don't seem to exist on the South Side. Bluefish with a few weakfish are still being taken by diamond jiggers and trollers at the Triangle.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of the **Promised Land Fishing Station** said the fluke fishing on Saturday was fair drifting around can No. 3 off Hicks Island on the outgoing tide. Incoming tide is also producing some fish with sand eels and squid combo the best bait. On Saturday virtually everyone killed the porgies around can No. 3 right in front of the station. The fish are mixed sizes, mostly medium, and range from ½ to 1½ pounds. Chumming with bunker helps, use skimmer clams for bait. Art said that he didn't let any boats out on Sunday due to the strong northwest winds.

EAST HAMPTON

Bill Cox at the **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** reported the porgy fishing as being very good with the boats chumming an average of 50 pounds per man and some boats taking as much as 100 pounds per man. The action is in the area stretching from Cedar Pt. to Lion Head Rock in Gardiners Bay. Bill said that the fluke fishing is pretty much over now that the fish have moved to the east.

NOYAC

Noyac Fishing Station reports that Helen and Arvo Lainen and daughter Helen on Fri. had 17 weaks up to 3¼ pounds plus a mess of porgies and snappers. Everything was caught on squid baits. Two fluke were also taken. On

Left-Right: David G., Steven F., and Billy G., with 28 blues and two weaks diamond jigged aboard Capt. Gary Frisone's "Prowler" out of Cove Marina in Montauk.

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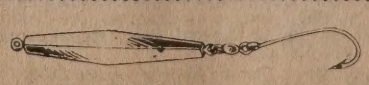

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SA-GEE CAPT. FRED RIEGE (516) 261-3662	Sea Doll CAPT. GENE KELLY (516) 668-2019	Wee Mac Capt. Harry McAllister (212) 225-1158

Mr. and Mrs. Wilmott of Wantagh with a 16 lb. fluke caught recently on the "Viking Starlite" out of Montauk.

Sat. they went out again and had 25 weakfish once more to 3½ pounds and large snappers and porgies along with a 2 lb. blue. Again this was all on squid. Good action in this area.

SHINNECOCK

Gary Carpenter at **Nick's Marina** in Shinnecock called to say that Sun. saw Shinnecock's first giant tuna brought in, caught on Joe Hanger's "My Rose Marie". The angler was Dennis Lamm of Lake Ronkonkoma. The fish was taken while chumming east of Block Island on a live whiting. The fish was battled for 2½ hours on 80 lb. class tackle. The weight of the fish was 995 pounds, weighed in at Nick's Marina.

HAMPTON BAYS

Jimmy at **Corr's Fishing Station** said that due to poor weather conditions the fluke fishing in Shinnecock Bay came to a standstill this past week. Some fish were taken in E. Channel by Shinnecock Inlet and West Channel towards the Ponquogue Bridge. The fluke activity should pick up again as water turbidity clears. Best bait still remains sand eel and squid combos and live killies get good results when they are available. Good sized snappers are being taken throughout Shinnecock Bay, and many anglers are taking snappers up to 1 pound in size trolling small silver lures with a drail.

Bradley's Fishing Station reported that the fluke fishing has been poor to fair with four to

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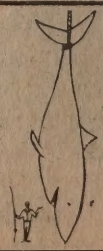

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Capt. Frank

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Member M.B.A.

RADAR

David and Jason Montovani of Wantagh with a mess of blues and weaks caught on diamond jigs at Montauk, August 4, on their dad's boat "Nora."

twelve fluke being taken per boat. The fish average 2 to 2½ pounds and East Channel has seen the best action on incoming tide. Snapper fishing is very good and the snappers are really getting big.

MORICHES BAY

East Moriches Bait and Tackle reports weakfish in the hole at buoy 42 on squid baits. Stan Lagora got 5 up to 3½ lbs along with some porgies and a mixture of fluke and flounder. Good fall mixed bag.

Al at the Hi-Way Fishing Station said that they had few boats out during the week due to the poor weather. But there are lots of snappers around and blowfishing has been very good off the hole between buoys 42 and 43. Fluke fishing is not spectacular but they have been picking a few in the usual spots. Bluefish are plentiful offshore for those trolling around the Sea buoy.

Seatuck Cove Fishing Station reported fluke fishing as fair with all of the fish being keepers. Best area has been around buoy 42 on incoming water using a sand eel and squid combo for bait. Some small weakfish are being taken casting and jigging at the mouth of the local creeks. Jeffrey A. Frey took 2nd place in the Moriches Anglers Shark Tournament held Sunday, and won $500 for his 220 lb. blue shark. First prize money of $1250 was taken by a 263 lb. blue shark. The all female crew aboard the boat "Three Bells" took third prize of $250 with a 209 lb. blue shark.

Ed Curtis Sr., his son Ed Jr., Jim Stelfox, Mark Boylan and Roger Lambert went shark fishing on Capt. Joe Martiney's charterboat **Rum and Coke** out of Moriches last week. Ed Jr., 15, hooked and fought his first blue shark for one hour and 5 minutes. It was 10 feet long and weighed in at 210 pounds. Jim Stelfox bagged a 200 lb. hammerhead shark and the rest of the party scored with two duskies.

MASTIC BEACH

Steritz Fishing Station reports very good snapper fishing all over the place, fish of nice size now on spearing on a float with small tins. Fluke and crabs were slow this week, though a few fluke were taken. Some flounders are starting on clam and worm-try the buoy 19 area. Some weaks at buoys 20,21 and 12 on squid strips on the bottom. Some blues at buoy 19 from 2-2½ lbs on small red surgical tubes.

SAYVILLE

Vinny at **Young's Fishing Station** reports lots of weaks, blows and kingfish at the Bayport/Sayville Line anywhere from 1-2 miles offshore in the shellbeds. Jim Welsh Jr. had 35 weaks up to 5 lbs on squid and sandworms plus a catch of snappers, kings and blowfish on clam. Clay Hartman on Sunday had 25 weaks on squid and sandworms along with 6 big porgies, blows and kings all on squid and sandworms. Good blue claw crabbing from the mouth of the river to ½ mile out.

WEST SAYVILLE

SOUTHBAY Fishing Station reports weaks and lots of kingfish between buoys 29 and 30 on drifted squid strips on a high low rig. Some weaks to 7 lbs on both tides. Blowfish just east of buoy 20 on clam or squid. Snappers in abundance and even bigger now. Some fluke just west of buoy 30 on squid and sandeels. Sal Feranti and Carl had 38 weaks and 50 blows fishing buoy 30 with squid strips. The weaks ran up to 7¾ lbs.

OAK BEACH

The Store reports fluking still good with approximately 20 fish per private boat from the mouth of F.I. Inlet to the whistler. Snappers are steeling baits so you have to apply pressure to get one into the strike zone. Blues from 4-5 lbs were taken over Fri. and Sat. at the Sore Thumb on tin. Rumors of a few bass at Cedar on popping plugs at dawn for some fish up to 12 lbs. Some flounders are starting at the Oak Beach Cover on worms and blacks are being picked up off the rocks and bridges on fiddlers.

BAY SHORE

Smokies Bait and Tackle reports weakfish of 44 lbs taken by Nick Di Lorenzo off the Bay Shore dock on squid strip. Weaks also at Bayberry Pt. on squid, 6-7 per man in the early morning hrs from either boat or from the dock. Porgies from buoy 7 on squid with one customer bagging 25 in just a couple of hours. Weaks off the Lighthouse on live snapper, up to 12 lbs. Fluke are holding up with the mouth of the inlet producing best on sandeels/squid or on live snappers. Sandy Ott, Mike, Carl and Joe on Sandy's Hit The Beach, had a mixed bag of bonito, skippies,

Three-year-olds Frank and Christopher Walls of Centereach, on their first fishing trip, with a 4-1/2 lb. and a 2 lb. fluke. All fish were caught by the boys with very little help from their dad.

albacore, tuna, a broken outrigger, and several burned thumbs. This was east of the San Diego on trolled red and white feathers and teasers. Twenty bluefish were also taken from 8-16 lbs fishing 65' of water east of the outside FI Reef. Tuna, dolphin and skippies are SE of the NB taking red and white feather and cedar jigs.

CAPTREE

The Captree Queen reports that fluking remained good thru Sat. with 5-8 keepers per man and very few throwbacks. Most of the action is from the Lighthouse to the Inlet plus West Island, so we can see that there are still fish in the bays which should be around for at least for another couple of weeks. Killies, sandeels, and fluke belly are all working well. Sun's weather and NW winds caused that day's fishing to fall off. The boat will be continuing her afternoon fluke trips for probably 2 more weeks according to Capt. Roman, depending of course, on the weather. Phone him to be sure, if you plan to go.

A call from an unknown angler reported blackfish being caught at the Mosses Bridge which is a good sign, as two boats from the Captree Open Boat Fleet will be starting for these sluggers on Saturday.

The charterboat **YANKEE** called to say that a genuine dormat was caught on Sun. by 15 yr old Tom Crowley of Butler, NJ. The fish weighed 17 lbs 5 ozs and fell to a squid/killie combo fishing SW of buoy 20 near the Mosses Bridge. This was a charter by the Bendix Management Club. In addition, Capt. Bob tells us the bluefishing has been very good at night off FI with his weekend daytime trips also being very good on jigs and bait off Cherry Grove. This is the third year in a row that a huge dormat has been brought in by the Captree Fleet.

The **Jib Fleet** reports that Peter Kurth of Middle Village took a 5 lb. 2 oz. fluke several days ago while Ed Perry of Patterson N.J. fishing with them on Sept. 4th,. took an 8 lb. 5 oz. fluke.

Capt. Bob Joseph of the **Capt. Joseph Fleet** was ecstatic to report that Jules Meyer of St. James took a 102 lb. yellowfin tuna on a 4/0 outfit while bluefish chumming on one of the Capt. Joseph boats Tuesday night. Bob said that the night bluefishing has been super all week long with a few albacore and bonito mixed in to spice up the action. On Saturday Virginia Kilgore of Brooklyn was high hook with 31 bluefish ranging from 5 to 14 pounds. Day fishing has also been good with 15 to 18 bluefish per man. Action has been either chumming or jigging during the day, strictly chumming at night. Bob noted that the fishing is right in Captree's backyard in 70' of water only 45 minutes from the inlet and it's a big body of bluefish. Fluke fishing has been good on the last of the flood tide from buoy 8 to the bridge in Fire Island Inlet.

Capt. Neil of the **Lady Ann** called to say that the fluking continues good over the week and weekend, with over 100 keeper fluke per day. Day blues have been fair to excellent and night blues have been a (total slaughter). Friday night 11 anglers had 127 blues, Sat. night 30 men had over 400 blues. Fish are mainly 8 to 10 pounders but some are going up to 15 pounds. Fish are an hour and 15 minutes from the dock, southeast of the inlet.

The Jib Fleet called to say that the **Jib V** will start blackfishing on Sat., Sept. 19th and Capt. Blum says it looks like a good blackfishing season again as 6 to 8 lb blacks are already being accidentally caught on fluke rigs. The **Jib V** will still be sailing each day at 8 A.M. for blacks and the **Jib VI** will continue fluking at 7 A.M.

BABYLON

Hi-Hook Fishing Station reports a lot of porgies at the Ferry Channel, at buoy 7 and in

the East West Channel on clam and squid. These fish are running from ¾ to 1 pound.

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** tells of good weakfishing just east of the Mosses Bridge and also off Hecksher. These are fish from 3-5 lbs though Bill also weighed in a 13 lb 6 oz tiderunner taken on live snapper off the old lighthouse. Skiffs are averaging 15 fluke per boat so they are still around. Seventeen fluke were boated by Jack and Bernie Yander during the week. Dick Yorkin took several skipjack in 90' of water trolling feathers. Some porgies and blowfish are mixed in with the fluke and weakfish catches, hitting best on small squid or clam baits. Seventeen blackfish were taken on Saturday by one customer fishing the inside artificial reef on fiddlers. The scene is mainly fluke and weaks.

Charlie's Fishing Station reports all the skiffs are bringing back fluke fishing with sandeels and squid. Best areas are around Grass Island and the St. Channel. The Inzirillo Brothers brought back a bucket of fluke fishing Gras Island on Sun. with squid and sandeels. The fish seem to be bigger and more plentiful now. Snappers still abound.

LINDENHURST

The Surfside Three Tuna Club had their annual fluke and blackfish contest this week which was won by Joe Navarez with a 1 lb. 13 oz. black and a 1 lb. 4 oz. fluke. On Sunday, club member Pete Sidone got his first tuna on his new boat "Serina II". Good luck Pete.

Charlie's Bait and Tackle reports that Carl Krist on his boat Partytime had 4 tuna up to 40 lbs along with 12 albacore and 4 bonito fishing 4 miles east of the NB in 108' of water trolling red and white cedar jigs. Red and white is the color no matter what you troll. Good blackfishing on the inside artificial reef up to 6 lbs on fiddlers at either slack tide. Plenty of fluke though starting to slow a little. Joe Mecurrio of Lindenhurst had 30 fluke on Fri. on his boat 5 J's up to 7¾ lbs. These were weighed in at **Charlie's West.** Lots of snappers around on spearing or tins. Flounders are just strating to show in holes and around bridges on worms. Some striprs for clam chummers in the State Channel. Try Snake Hill for blowfish on clam. Porgies are being taken from holes.

Dukes Bait and Tackle reports lots of snappers with the drains and coves at the St. Channel and both sides of the inlet best. Big fluke on live snappers in the inlet along with weaks in the 6-12 lb range on squid and sand eels. Some big blues in the surf at dawn hours up to 14 lbs on bait, plugs and tins. Out at 85' line the blues are active and feeding on the bottom, fish from 6-12 lbs. Blackfish are on the upswing, best being at the Robt. Mosses bridge. The reef should be good soon with fiddlers. Porgies appear to be concentrated in the State Channel hitting clam and worm baits. A few bass reports over the weekend for fish in the State Channel and the inlet, all schoolies. Bonito, albies and tuna remain plentiful in 85-120' of water SE of Fl inlet on feathers, cedar jigs, jet lures and also rigged biats.

Capt. Tom on the **Sea Horse** reports fluking was fair to good with a decent showing of porgies and blowfish over the week and weekend. One of his customers also took a 4½ lb. trigger fish. Porgies and blacks should be good in another one or two weeks. It's clam for the blacks and porgies, and sand eels and killies for the fluke. Tom is fishing F.I. Inlet and the channel edges. The best fluking is around the bridges. Capt. Tom is getting married next week, despite our advice. Good luck anyway, Tom, from L.I.F.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle reports that Joe and Joe Jr. Gervasi and Roy Orlando had 4 tuna from 15-20 lbs each along with 1 bonito and a dolphin all on red and white feathers fishing 110' of water on the NB on Monday. Alar Morgillo, Chuck and Paul had a 9 lb 3 oz and a 6 lb 8 oz weakfish at the Meadowbrook Bridge on live snapper along with a doz. blackfish taken on fiddlers. Blackfishing is good at the Kismet Reef on fiddlers fish in the 2 lb range. One customer took 17 blacks in a half hour. Blues being taken in the dawn hours on surgical tubes. Fluke still remain in Fl Inlet with live snappers working best. Some striped bass taken off Kismet and off the Lighthouse on bellies. The Mosses Bridge is also holding bass caught on bellies also. A lot of big weaks were weighed in last week with the largest being a 11 lb 13 oz tiderunner that took a live snapper .

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle tells of weighing in 5 stripers weighing from 15 -38 lbs taken by Tom Mattey of Amityville on live eels drifted over the rota wreck. Tom dropped 5 other fish. A few bass are also being livelined in Zach's Bay. So, we can see that there are good bass on the feed. Weaks and blues being trolled at the inlet on white Sekora rigs. Weaks at the third Wantagh on live snappers and at Jones Inlet at the Stone barge. West and Squaw Island are producing good catches of sea bass, porgies, lafayettes and jack cravelles.

Good blackfishing at the bridges, reefs and rocks on fiddlers and green crabs. Still good fluking throughout the inlet on sand eels and squid. Lots of snappers around stealing bait. Try the docks for snappers too.

SEAFORD

Salice Fishing Station reports plenty of porgies on anything you lower to the bottom, clam, squid or worms—they are all over the joint. Loads of snappers also all over on small baitfish and small lures. Fluke from Four Corners to the 3rd bridge on sand eels and squid. Flounder starting in Four Corners and at the bridges on worm and clam. A few weakfish at the black banks and the third bridge on sand worms, salty dogs and squid..

BELLMORE

Scot at **Merrick Marine Supplies** tells us that plenty of tuna, bonito and albacore are being trolled up at the NB, about 120 degrees out of Jones. "All you want", says Scot. Red and white feathers, cedar jigs, whale bones and knuckleheads are doing the job. Flounder is picking up to the tune of 15 to 20 fish per boat. The Fundy Bridge area, Nick's Pt., Rowboat Alley are producing along with some porgies. Worms and clam are your best bet. Two to three lb. blues are being taken in the inlet on white tubes, with mornings and evenings best. Snapper fishing is still hot on small trolled or cast lures or small bait fish under a bobber. Cod and pollack are now being picked up on offshore wrecks on clam baits.

MERRICK

George at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports bonito, albacore and tuna in very good quantities at the NB buoy, 150 degrees out of Jones. Spanish mackerel and dolphin are also mixed in but it's mostly bonito. Red and white feathers are doing the job. In 35 to 40' of water Sat. and Sun. blues in the 3 lb. category were taken on all lures and by all methods. The bay is loaded with small porgies which are hitting worm and clam baits. A few small flounder have been taken and very few fluke this past week.

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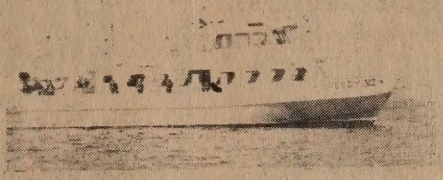

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Fish Talk: PUFFER

(Continued from page 8.)

started by an old friend, and research scientist from The New York Ocean Science Laboratory at Montauk. Dr. Robert J. Valenti has pioneered many techniques for raising and breeding marine fishes. In his latest operation, he intends to spawn and raise blowfish to marketable size. One of the keys to any finfish culture program is to find a nutritious food that is acceptable to the fry, or very young fish: this is the most vulnerable stage. They are precise and specific in their food requirements; they are susceptible to disease and stress. For example, a sudden change in temperature may kill the majority of a spawn.

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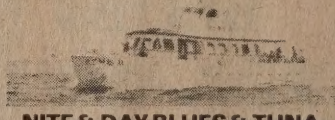

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The Capt. Al reports terrific bluefishing at Cholera both Fri. and Sat. nights on bait. The Sun. day trip slowed for blues but a lot of bonito were taken. The night blues are up to 12 pounds on bait. Generally, the day trips are half bonito, half blues. Day trips were very good during the week in general with fish being jigged and chummed.

The **Starstream II** reports that he is now getting some sea bass and porgies and that the local reefs and wrecks should be filling up very shortly with these fish. Therefore, Capt. Kessinger is switching over to sea bass and porgies by the time you read this report. Sat. catch was only fair due to the poor conditions, as was Sunday's fishing, though a bit better than Sat. The culprit was the hurricane off Hatteras. The night bluefishing has been good with 180 choppers hitting the deck on Sat. night. With the fall weather we should now have big bluefish and heavy catches on the night trips.

The **Aloma II** reports fluking poor over the weekend and that he is now switching to flounder starting this Sat. sailing at 7:30 A.M. The boat will be sailing weekends only.

The **Capt. Hall** reports good fluking during the week though things fell off over the weekend due to the offshore storms, wind and heave. One customer during the week caught two rods and reels on live snapper, despite the fact that the water was all churned up by the high winds.

Charterboat **Bluefin II** called to tell us that a 7½ lb. fluke was taken on Sunday on sand eels and squid by youngster Laura Shechter of Brooklyn in Reynolds Channel on sand eels and squid. Lots of snappers all over but fares got through the snappers to return to the nice catch of fluke which was taken mainly in the 1 hour before the change of tide in Reynolds Channel. Fares also took porgies and sea bass on Sunday's trip. On Friday a charter had bluefish on jigs fishing only a quarter mile off the jetty where they took weaks as well on the jigs.

Frank McGuire with 11 lb. bluefish caught on the "Capt. Al" out of Freeport. The blue won the pool and a Skillful Angling Award from L.I.F.

Miss Freeport reports they had good fluking all week but that the weekend fell down because of the weather. On Thursday one customer had 30 fluke all keepers, fishing Jones Inlet. This was on sand eels and squid.

Bob of **Starfish Marina** in E. Islip called to tell us that a possible women's IGFA 20 lb. class record is being entered by Mabel M. Andretta of Bellrose. Mable took an 18 lb. 15 oz. fluke which was weighed in at **Mako Marina** in Freeport. That is the weight that will be entered to I.G.F.A. Since her husband is a subscriber to L.I.F., Mable transported the fish to Starfish Marine where she entered same in the L.I.F./Starfish Contest for the new boat. When weighed in at Starfish, the fish weighed 18 pounds 8 ounces, with the weight loss due to fluids and evaporation. The catch was made on Sept. 7th off the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station on live snapper from a boat.

Capt. Arnold of the charterboat **Shalidon** called to say that on Sat. and Sunday his charters were getting a mixed bag of bluefin tuna in the 25 lb. range, bonito and albacore. He has been trolling feathers and the new Hawaiian Jet Lures. The Jet Lures are being fished on outriggers and they have been taking the bluefin southwest of the NB Buoy in 110' of water. The captain also heard of bonito being trolled inshore in 75' of water where the water is really clear. It looks like a good fall run of tuna in the making.

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sports** tells us weakfish are now back in the inlet mornings and eves on live snapper, which are all over the place and really do a job on your bait. Loads of snappers can be had on small bait fish and shiny tins. Albacore, bonito and tuna in 80' of water, 150 degrees out of Jones Inlet. They are in thick, mainly taking cedar jigs and red and white feathers.

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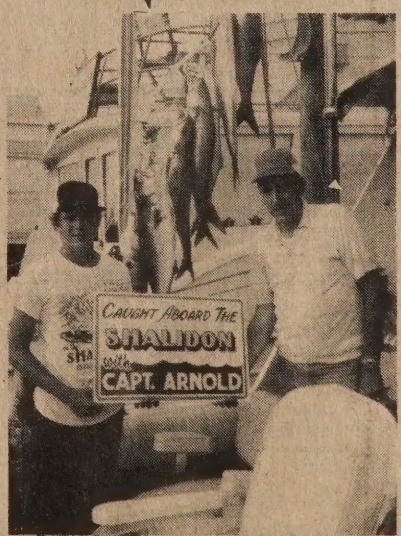

Billy Athas, Jr., and his Dad Bill, of Baldwin, caught 50 blues fishing on Freeport's "Shalidon." The fish were taken trolling green banana lures with wire line near the NB buoy.

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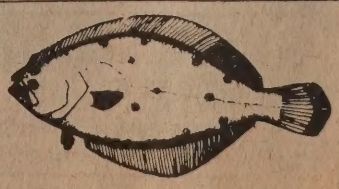

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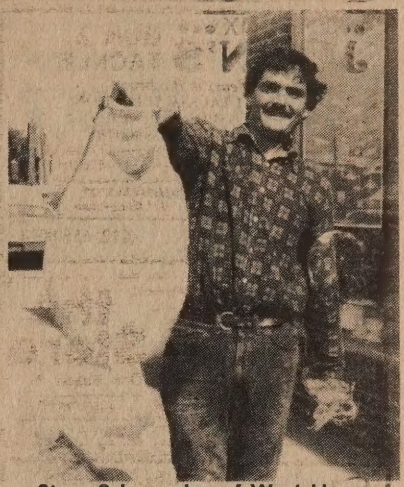

Steve Schumacher of West Hempstead caught this 11 lb. 4 oz. fluke out of Nick's Rowboat Marina at Swift Creek on a live snapper.

POINT LOOKOUT

The Marie III called to tell us that on Sat. they trolled albies and bonito close to the beach getting 6 albies and 9 bonito on red and white feathers and red and black feathers. The water was beautiful and clean. Weaks and blues at the end of the day were jigged at the inlet with the blues going to ten pounds and the weaks same. On Sunday it was strictly wreck fishing. Blackfish were taken on green crabs going up to 9 pounds. Porgies up to 1½ pounds and plenty of sea bass were decked. All hands had good mixed bags of fish.

Ed's Fishing Station reports very good fluke fishing this past week in Jones Inlet. Fish up to 18 pounds were taken on mostly killies. This fishing slowed over the weekend because of the high winds. Weakfish from 4 to 6 pounds were taken in Jones Inlet, the Shore Beach Coast Guard Station, and the Meadowbrook Bridge. These fish were taking snappers, sand worms and salty dogs with a piece of squid bounced on the bottom. Snappers are in really thick in the inlet and are running up to 1½ pounds. Bottom fishing is good at buoys 14 and 16 in Reynolds Channel with a mixed bag of sand porgies, lafayettes and sea bass taking clams and worms. Blackfish up to 1½ pounds are being taken at the Meadowbrook Bridge and along the jetties on fiddlers. Flounder are hitting worms at Swift Creek and at the Shore Beach Coast Guard area. Bluefish were taken from 4 to 6 pounds off the jetties. These fish came in and went out very quickly and those who were in the area took fish on umbrellas and tubes.

ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle reports that fluke fishing in Jones Inlet has been good with fish up to 5 pounds hitting squid—spearing and squid—sand eel combos. The weekend's weather made the fishing tough. These fish were also being caught on live snappers. Blackfishing has picked up under the bridges, at the rock jetties and at the T wreck. Some big snappers are being taken in the inlet.

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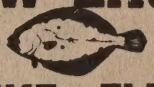

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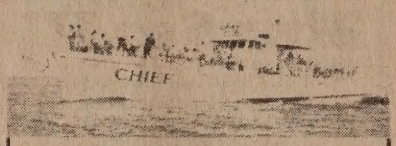

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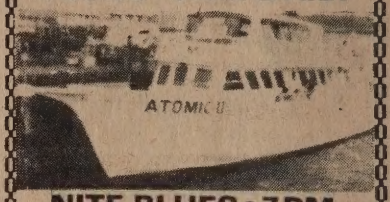

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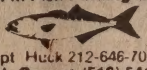

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Tom (Left) and Mike Shine with 16 keeper fluke caught in Sloop Channel near the Jones Beach Piers, fishing on the family boat "Sunshine."

Small blues from 2 to 4 pounds were taken trolling wire line in 30 to 40' of water right outside the inlet. Bigger fish up to 12 pounds were had at Cholera on jigs and bananas and wire lining umbrellas in 90 to 95' of water.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that lafayettes are being taken in the area on blood and sand worms. Snappers of nice size can be had at the North and South Channel Bridges, and Beach Channel Drive. These fish are running up to 1½ pounds and are being taken both day and night on bunker chunks and pieces of lafayettes. Fluking is good at Ambrose Channel with fish averaging close to 3 pounds taking sand eels, spearing, squid and killies. Blackfishing has been spotty but should pick up in a week or so.

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SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The Helen II reports that Sat. night was a slaughter on bluefish, working between Jones Inlet and Cholera. On Sat., fishing Klondike was another slaughter on the blues. George says you just have to be at the right place at the right time. He says the bluefishing has been pretty good in general all week, both days and nights, with bonito mixed in. It's jigging during the day and bait at night.

The Elsie K III reports Sunday slow for fluke but a lot of weaks have been showing with many caught along with the fluke during the week. The fluke are still there. It was the poor fishing conditions over the weekend that caused the drop off in catches Sat. and Sun. Right now mixed catches of stripers, weaks, blues and fluke which are all hitting fluke rigs, are being seen. All these fish are feeding on sand eels. Capt. Tom is now featuring fluke—weak trips on every sailing.

The **Dorothy B** has now switched over to blacks and sea bass and will be fishing wrecks, reefs, and rocks for a good mixed bag of fish.

Capt. Walter on the **Flamingo III** reports some good days on blues and bonito and other days when its just bluefish when the bonito are elsewhere. Local grounds are giving forth a good fall mixed bag of blues, weaks, bonito and stripers. For the most part, it's diamond jigs with some days chumming working and some days it's jigging in the chum slick. Bonito and albies are around and chances are good that you'll get your hooks into them if you try. Since boats are now crowded now, this is the season for serious anglers to do

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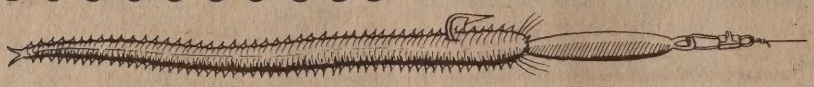

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Matthew Leahy caught this 11 lb. bluefish on the "Helen H" which sails from Sheepshead Bay. We understand that Matt is an avid fisherman and this fish must certainly have been a great satisfaction.

their thing.

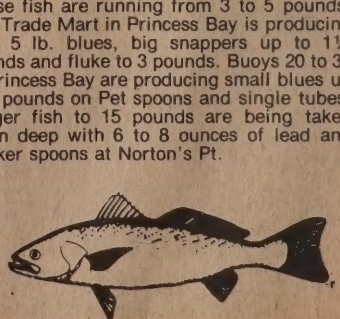
Big Mohawk II reports night blues good at Klondike, fish 4 to 8 pounds. Sat. saw good day fishing of albacore, bonito and blues, with many bonito showing. Sunday was off due to horrible sea conditions. Fish are now also being baited during the day. Capt. Tony says that he still has a few weekday charters left.

Capt. Joe of the **Blue Sea III** reports loads of blues and bonito at the Klondike with it being jigs and bait days, and just bait at night. Blues are running 3 to 4 pounds. Skippies are mixed in also. A tuna was dropped on Sun. afternoon's trip. Great action, says Joe.

Joe at **Salvo's Bait and Tackle** reports blackfish along all the jetties and wrecks, fish 2 to 5 pounds on worms and fiddler crabs. Weakfishing is fantastic between the Tin Can and the Verrazano Bridge (Brooklyn side) on worms drifted on the bottom or live snapper or trolled umbrellas or bunker spoons. A fair amount of blues are around on just about, everything. Striped bass only at night with worms drifted on the bottom at the Tin Can. Porgies, lafayettes and snappers are all along the sea wall and available off any pier or bulkhead on small baitfish fished with a bobber or small tins. Some people are using small lafayettes as live bait for weaks. Still some nice fluke with 75 percent keepers taking spearing, sand eels or squid at Ambrose Channel.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that lafayettes, porgies and snappers are all over the Staten Island area. Piers 8, 17 and 18 are producing small bass from 2 to 3 pounds and up to 5 and a few weaks from 4 to 5 pounds drifting worms. Oakwood Beach and Newdorp Beach are producing blues on cut bait and plugs. These fish are running from 3 to 5 pounds. The Trade Mart in Princess Bay is producing 3 to 5 lb. blues, big snappers up to 1½ pounds and fluke to 3 pounds. Buoys 20 to 35 in Princess Bay are producing small blues up to 6 pounds on Pet spoons and single tubes. Bigger fish to 15 pounds are being taken down deep with 6 to 8 ounces of lead and bunker spoons at Norton's Pt.



NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Capt. George Porter's **Brand X** did very well Thurs. and Fri. on big bluefish from 5-15 lbs fishing in Pidgeon Rip and the Race. Fish were baited and Diamond jigged. The weekend was slower however, because of the rough seas.

A.P. White Bait Shop reports porgies being taken by the boatfull. Gardiners Island is the best spot. Blackfishing is getting better at Gull and Plum Islands. There was also some striper activity last week around Gull Island and Old Silas Rock. Weakfish averaging 7 pounds were taken over by the Greenport Jetty.

The **Wilhelric** reports that the porgy fishing remains fantastic with most fish being from medium to large to jumbos, with the fishing being concentrated at Gardiners Island. On Saturday, Dick Coleman had 92 porgies. However, he wasn't high hook as some other passengers had well over 100 fish each. Capt. Artie says the fall run at Gardiners is at its peak.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reports porgies in the bay being taken on worms and clams at buoys 17, South Ferry, buoy 12 and 15. Buoy 15 is producing better fishing. Porgy fishing in the Sound is better in quality but less in quantity. Fish can be taken at Mulford Pt., Petty's Bite, Rocky Pt. and right in front of the station. Blackfish up to 3 pounds are being caught in the rocks at the lighthouse. Flounder up to 1½ pounds are being taken on the South Side of the Pt. near the Ferry Slip. Bluefish are being caught at Pigeon Rip on bunker and smelt.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports weakfish and porgy activity is good at Rose's Grove and Nassau Pt. Weakfish averaging 4 pounds are taking sand worms and squid and porgies from ¾ to 1¼ pounds with a few up

Frank DiPalo, age 13, with 6-1/2 lb. bluefish he caught off Callahan's Beach on bunker. Photo from Mae's Way Fishing Station.

Christopher Rufrano (right) of Brooklyn, with a 73 lb. wahoo he caught on August 20. Chris is a member of the Keystone Yacht Club.

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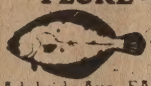

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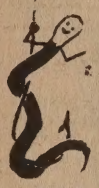

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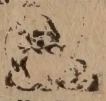

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Norberto Florendo and Salvador Alicia, both of Dyckman St., upper Manhattan, with their catch of four blues—around 14 to 15 lbs. each—taken at Sands Pt., on Crocodiles and Kastmaster lures, last week. Photo courtesy of Jack's Bait & Tackle Shop, City Island.

to 2 pounds taking worms in these areas. Snappers are getting bigger and are now running to 12 inches in length. Kingfish up to 3 pounds are being taken on the south side near Rose's Grove.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle reports porgy fishing is doing well in both bay and Sound with fish up to 2½ pounds being taken. Blues are being caught at the beach on the Sound side from 4 to 8 pounds. These fish are taking bunker and cut porgy bait. Blackfishing is picking up at the pipeline at Northville. Weakfish from 2 to 4 pounds are taking whole sand worms and squid at Rose's Grove. Snapper activity has seemed to slow down in this area this past week. A few bass have been reported to have been caught along the sound beaches bobber fishing sand worms at night.

JAMESPORT

Jamesport Bait and Tackle reports that porgy fishing has remained good this past week. Weakfishing is good at Nassau Pt. and Robbins Island with fish up to 4 pounds hitting salty dogs with the tails removed and a piece of squid substituted. These fish are also taking sand worms. In the Sound, the blackfishing at the pipeline is on the upswing with fish hitting crabs such as Hermits greens and fiddlers. Bluefish from 5 to 6 pounds were being taken on red tubes at the pipeline and Roanoke shoreline. Snappers remain plentiful on both sides.

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Pt. Fishing Stop reports that blues were being taken from 10 to 14 pounds out at the Middle Grounds. The only problem was that a lot of the fish were unhooking themselves. Porgies up to 1½ pounds can be taken all along the beaches. Weakfish hit White Beach and fish from 4½ to 5 pounds were taking sand worms. Bluefishing at buoys 9 and 11 has slowed this past week. Blackfishing is on the upswing with fish to 4½ pounds taking crabs, worms and clams.

SELDEN

Ken at **Angler's Den** reports blackfishing is getting better off Cedar Beach and Moriches. The Den has a good supply of green crabs. Dan Zochaerman caught bluefish up to 14 pounds 6 ounces and weaks up to 10 pounds 4 ounces fishing out of Moriches. The areas between buoys 11 and 9 are good bets for bluefish with the weather permitting. Ken asked us to inform our readers that Frank Spaeaccini will be his new partner in the management of the **Angler's Den South,** which will be opening shortly in Moriches.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that high winds over the weekend slowed fishing down. Blues were taken at buoys 9 and 11 and Cedar Beach trolling with umbrellas and tubes. These fish ran from 2 to 4 pounds. Snappers remain plentiful in the harbor. Fluke up to 5 pounds are being taken along the beaches on sand eels and squid. Porgies are still plentiful in the area. Blackfish are starting to show off Miller Place and are taking mostly worms and clams. In another week or so, these fish will begin to take crabs.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports plenty of porgies at Old Field Pt.. Bluefish averaging around 2 pounds were taken near buoy 9.
Fluke fishing has slacked off and no big weakfish were weighed in last week. John at the fishing station said reports of killer whales supposedly were sighted in the Sound were probably porpoises.

10-year-old Jim McManus recently took these fine blues, along with others, on the "Hush Puppy" out of Montauk. The charter was a birthday present for Jim. Happy Birthday, Jim.

Ken Bybash with 17 lb. 10 oz. bluefish which leads the "Hel-Cat" bluefish contest. The party boat sails early for big blues.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports that a few good catches were made over the weekend in spite of the weather. Blue activity seems to be increasing and porgy and snappers are a sure bet. A few bass are starting to show and the station is hoping for a good fall run. On Tuesday, Mike Tortice and Joe Lando took bass of 7 and 4 pounds and blues of 13 and 10¾ pounds on umbrellas at Long Beach. On Sunday David McEnaney weighed in a monster blue of 15 pounds 8 ounces. Thursday John Bishop and Bob Koliner chummed 8 blues in the Old Dumping Grounds off the mouth of the river. Sunday Joe Pece of Brooklyn and two friends caught three pails of the finest kind of porgies.

NORTHPORT

Bowman's Sporting Goods reports blues being taken between buoy 11B and Eatons Neck. The successful anglers are going deep with wire line and umbrella rigs. However, you still have to try different depths and trolling speeds to come up with a reasonable catch of 4 to 6 bluefish. Big snapper blues were taken from shore and boat on Kastmaster type lures at the Lilco plant. Bluefish put in an appearance at 7:30 A.M. last Friday for about an hour at Crab Meadow Beach. Fishermen over at Macimah told of sighting a 10 foot shark several times last week. One angler live lining snappers for weakfish claims to have hooked the shark but the fish broke off. There is still some fluke off Diamond Pt. taking drifted squid and sand worms.

Chain Locker reports blues chasing bunker at the Lilco ramp. Try snagging a bunker and fish it live or chunked. Eaton's Neck on the flood is producing stripers on bunker chunks and on whole bunker with blues bobbing around in there also. A helpful hint would be to fish with a tandem rig so that a lunker grabbing your bait short will still find a hook in his mouth. Stripers have been active two hours on either side of the high at the Eaton's Neck Lighthouse and the Marshall Fields—Target Rock area. Danny Plugs are also producing. The aforementioned has been mainly schoolies. Blackfish on the east side of the Eaton's Neck Lighthouse and west of the East Bar in 20' of water on worms and fiddlers. Porgies are best at the Lilco Loading Ramp on all tides on worms and clams. The fish are good sized. Sand porgies are all over the harbor on worms and clam. Fluke slowed at buoy 13 but some larger ones were taken this week off Diamond Pt. and buoy 15 at the entrance to Oyster Bay. Snappers are now about 11 inches long.

CENTEREACH

Fred at the **Bait Bucket** reports striped bass is picking up at Moriches Inlet, Miller Place, Wading River, Rocky Pt., all on live eels at night. Bluefish are working both shores in the early morning and at sunset on plugs. Fluke and weaks slowed a bit but blacks and flounders have started picking up: blacks on fiddlers and flounder on worm and clam. George Bonksonki got 5 blues from 5 to 9 pounds and 3 bass from 18 to 22 pounds, all on Cordel Sea Hags on Fri. night in Moriches Inlet.

HUNTINGTON

The Everyready called to say that they will be starting blues this week along with the Sun. bottom trip. See their add in LIF for

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details. Capt. Don says he will be having special programs for ecology students and that those interested should call for information.

Four Winds Bait and Tackle reports blues being taken off 11B over the weekend. Fish are averaging 6 to 12 pounds and are being taken on umbrellas. Three to five pound blues can also be taken at Diamond Pt., Huntington Bay and Cold Spring Harbor on bunker. Bill Ricca Jr. took a 13 lb. 7 oz. blue on Sunday morning in Cold Spring Harbor on bunker. Porgy fishing is excellent with fish up to 2 pounds being taken at buoy 13, the East Bar and at the Loading Platform. Smaller fish can be had at Sand City and Marshall Field. Weakfish from 2 to 5 pounds are being taken in Northport Bay from Sand City to Duck Island drifting sand worms. Fluke fishing is holding on at Diamond Pt. with fish from 3 to 6 pounds taking most baits. Snappers are increasing in size but are thinning out in the area.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports small blues from 1½ to 4 pounds are being trolled on wire line with umbrellas with black and red tubes and on white bucktails at Lloyd Pt. An occasional weak has been mixed in. Fluke fishing has slowed but some are still being taken at Lloyd Pt. with sand eels and squid. Porgy fishing is good at Eaton's Neck and Marshall Field. These fish are averaging 1 pound and are hitting sand worms and clams. Snappers are all over and are of respectale size. These fish are taking shiners and small lures.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reports lots of porgies around Fort Slocom and Execution Light. Blues from 8 to 14 pounds were taken out of Pt. Washington and Little Neck Bays. Lafayettes are in thick in Eastchester Bay. Blackfishing is improving with fiddler crabs the best bait.

GROTON CONN.

Capt. Brad Glas of the **Hel-Cat** reports good to excellent fishing all last week. Brad has been going offshore for good catches of blues including a night charter last Sat. This week the **Hel-Cat** will be the official press boat at the Americas Cup Races. The boat will return as soon as one of the contenders wins 4 races.

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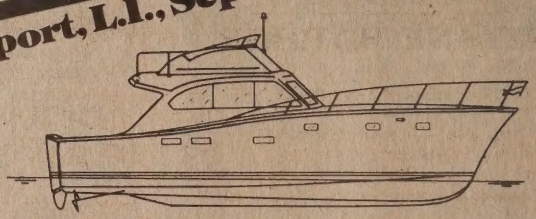

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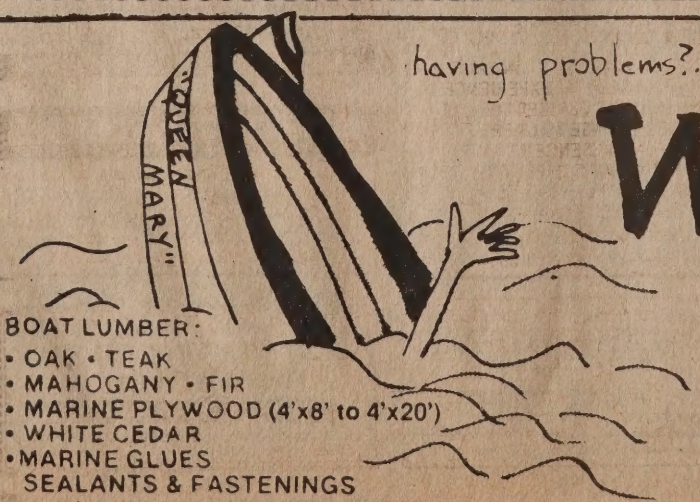

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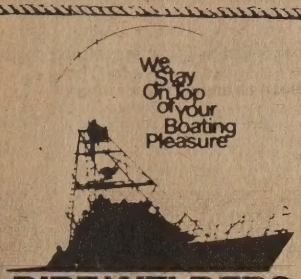

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NORTH SHORE DOCKS

(Continued from page 17.)

need not be the most popular productive method, with exceptions as mentioned previously.

As for the bait used—white or cut bunker chunks are prime bait. Large smelt, sandeels, spearing, butterfish, squid are acceptable. Ideally, if bunkers are in close (often the situation at docks), snag a few and fish live with a hook in lips and another near dorsal fin. Snappers fished live are another good attractor. If new to the dock area, ask the tackle dealer near the dock for particular bait recommendations.

Dock Fishing Tips: I fish from these docks during the fall season, usually starting at Cold Spring harbor and moving east by car along route 25A. If bunker schools are not visible at one location, I travel to the next. The whole trip takes less than an hour. Nightfall and early morning offers the best opportunities for blues, especially when incoming high tide is present. Besides bunker, tinker mackerel appear in the fall. Try using them as bait. If small children accompany you on the docks, put life jackets on them as the danger of falling off the dock exists, especially with the excitement of catching fish. Chumming on the bottom with a chum pot will sometimes bring scattered, loner blues to your location; it's worth a try. Also a small dinghy, or car top boat launched close from the beach will offer additional fishing coverage around the dock area. If fishing from a point on the dock high above the water and a blue is caught, try to avoid lifting him if possible by walking over to the lower shore area and beach him with a hand gaff. But don't forget that a blue will throw a slack line, so keep it tight at all times.

Fishing from docks can be as interesting (or more) than surf fishing. The fall cool, lively air offers pleasant outdoor conditions, while nearby fellow fishermen engage in good conversation, often mentioning past experiences fishing their local areas. I personally have seen large blues caught at all of the mentioned dock areas within the last few years and am hopeful that repetition will occur this year.

One outstanding experience stands out among the others. Three years ago, I read a fishing report about large teen-size blues in the local newspapers. Cold Spring harbor was the location, near the dock at the head of the harbor. My son and I decided to fish this location at mid-morning and when we arrived, I realized my mistake. The choppers had blitzed the dock area that morning, early before first light. On the beach area, washed up with the tide were fifty to sixty dead bunkers torn in half, some with tails, some with bellies missing. Surrounding this slaughter were the remains of filleted carcasses of large blues. Some of the huge heads of blues were left as evidence of being caught during the morning blitz. Neither my son nor I had ever experienced such visual proof of a blitz, as seen on this beach area. The fact is that is happened then and it happens more often than it is reported. If timed correctly, you could be involved in the same occurrence. So watch the fish reports concerning movement and locations or harbor blues and try the docks. You could catch a chopper that exceeds your imagination. Just last year at the Northport dock in late September, several 16 and 18 pound blues were caught just before their exodus from Long Island Sound. Also, three years ago at another dock - Port Jefferson, a woman was reported in the newspapers to have caught a 21 pound blue. That's enough to convince any Long Island Sound boater or surf fisherman who is out to capture that huge trophy chopper to try - "North Shore Harbor Docks In the Fall".

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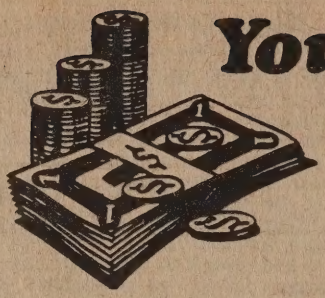

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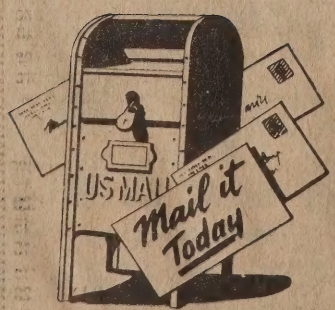

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	9 45	10 06	10:30	10:48	10:21	10 37	11 14	11:38	12:41	1:02	12:54	1:15	9:49	10:04	9/15
FRI	10 32	10 55	11:15	11 34	11 08	11 29	11:59	—	1:25	1:46	1:39	2:00	10:35	10:52	9/16
SAT	11 22	11 46	—	12 03	11:59	—	12:28	12:49	2:11	2:34	2:26	2:48	11:26	11:45	9/17
SUN	—	12 17	12:24	12:58	12 28	12:59	1:23	1:45	3:03	3:25	3:20	3:43	—	12:21	9/18
MON	12 44	1 18	1:22	1:59	1:28	1:58	2:22	2:48	3:59	4:26	4:13	4:42	12:43	1:20	9/19
TUE	1 48	2 22	2:28	2:07	2:31	2:59	3:28	3:55	5:06	5:37	5:21	5:48	1:47	2:21	9/20
WED	2 55	3 27	3:40	4:16	3:36	4:06	4:39	5:05	6:48	7:21	6:29	6:55	2:53	3:28	9/21
THUR	3 59	4 30	4:52	5:24	4 45	5:12	5:47	6:12	8:15	8:41	7:35	8:01	4:03	4:35	9/22

How to Use Tide Tables

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

9/3	6:27	7:31
9/8	6:32	7:22
9/13	6:38	7:14
9/18	6:43	7:05
9/23	6:48	6:56
9/28	6:53	6:47

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/13	9/20	9/27	9/5

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	6:30	12:45	7:00	1:20
FRI.	7:35	1:50	8:00	2:15
SAT.	8:30	2:45	8:55	3:15
SUN.	9:30	3:45	9:55	4:15
MON.	10:30	4:50	11:00	5:20
TUES.	11:35	5:50	11:55	6:20
WED.	—	6:45	12:35	7:15
THURS.	12:55	7:35	1:30	8:05

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